



SOCCER ACTION

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\$1 recommended price only

BERLIN'S BEST TO VISIT



VERBAND BERLINER
BALLSPIEL-VEREINE e.V.

Mitglied im Deutschen Fußball-Bund

"Federation of Berlin Soccer Clubs (Registered)"

The Berlin City team, a selection of the best soccer players in West Berlin, will visit Australia next January.

Seventeen players and about five officials of the Federation of Berlin Soccer Clubs will arrive in Melbourne on 14 January. Berlin is expected to play at least three games here, against top-class opponents.

In a tournament held in West Berlin three months ago, the all-star selection recorded good results against Borussia Moenchengladbach, Dinamo Zagreb and Honved Budapest.

Its scores, with goalscorers, were:
Berlin 6 (Schlumberger 2, Vogt 2, Gaedke, Schulz) Moenchengladbach 1 (Veh).
Berlin 1 (Schlumberger) Dinamo Zagreb 0.
Berlin 1 (Schlumberger) Honved 1 (Bodonyi).
Berlin 2 (Schlumberger, Marczewski) Dinamo Zagreb 2 (Bogdan, Krajncar).
Torsten Schlumberger of the SCC club is, as is evident



• Friedhelm Haebermann, then with Eintracht Braunschweig and now coach of West Berlin, shakes hands with opposing captain Franz Beckenbauer before a Bundesliga game.

from the above, one of the stars of the team. The touring squad is expected to include also: Gaedke (SCC), Vogt (Hertha BSC), Bieder (Tennis Borussia), Ecke (Hertha BSC), Schulz (SCC), Marczewski (LSU), and Kaepernick (Hertha 03) who scored 28 goals last season. Coach of the Berlin all-stars is Friedhelm Haebermann who was captain of Bundesliga club Eintracht Braunschweig from 1977 to 1979 and who was in the West Germany squad for the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

About three weeks ago, the Berlin team played a 1-1 draw at home with China.

BORAL BRICKS

Sponsorship by Boral Bricks has made "Soccer Action's" best player award the richest in Australia.

Boral Bricks will provide \$1500 cash to the Australian Player of the Year, according to votes cast by "Soccer Action" reporters.

Boral Bricks also will provide \$1000 to the top scorer of the National League.

In the event of a tie, penalty goals will be deducted. If there still is a tie, goals scored in Cup matches will be counted.

In the event of a tie for the best player, there will be a countback, with the winner getting \$1000 and the remainder being split equally between the other players involved in the countback.

Boral Bricks give \$2500 for best player, top scorer

The only other national best player award is the one run by the Australian Soccer Press Association in conjunction with the NSL.

Charlie Yankos of Heidelberg is leading in the Boral Bricks award.

Others polling strongly include: Peter Tokos (Brisbane City), Steve Bryant (Canberra Arrows), Terry Gready (St George Budapest), Ray Vlietstra (Wollongong), Zarko Odzakovic (Preston).

Makedonia and Peter Burke (Newcastle KB United).

Progress votes and progressive scorers in both Boral Bricks awards will appear every week in "Soccer Action."

We thank Mr Peter Borg, Boral Bricks' manager, of sales and distribution in Melbourne, for swinging his company's weight behind the award.

BORAL BRICKS

We can help you build it.



Newcastle star David Lowe goes towards the ball as Carl Hottford (left), goalkeeper Peter Laumets and Bobby Russell of Hellas wait at the post. Newcastle won 5-2. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Regions get nod but problems loom

By
LAURIE
SCHWAB

The National Soccer League has taken the first major step towards splitting into two regional competitions next season.

Separate meetings of the Sydney-based and Melbourne-based NSL clubs agreed in principle that regionalisation should go ahead.

They have called a meeting of the NSL's Council of Clubs to discuss the plan further.

The meeting will be at the Hakoah Club in Sydney at 10am on Saturday.

A firm proposal then will be put to the Australian Soccer Federation and to the State federations.

The plan being discussed involves a northern and a southern regional competition of 12 clubs each, with a play-off between the top four teams from each region at the end of the season.

The present NSL comprises 16 clubs, so eight would have to be added to make up the total of 24.

However, NSW Federation president Karl Rodny has said his federation will oppose regionalisation because it would deprive the NSW State League

of its top clubs — presumably Croatia and Melita Eagles.

The Victorian federation has not stated its attitude. However, officials have said privately that if the NSL is regionalised, the regions should be under the direct control of the State federations rather than the NSL executive.

Another problem is that because of the present geographical structure of the NSL, it will be difficult to put together a southern region containing enough clubs of sufficient strength and crowd-drawing potential.

The problem is not as acute in the north which would include the five existing NSL clubs from Sydney — APIA, Marconi, St George, Sydney City and Olympic — the two from Brisbane — Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions — plus the regional clubs Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong, leaving only two to be added.

The south has only Heidelberg, Makedonia, Footscray JUSTI, South Melbourne Hellas, Adelaide City and West Adelaide, leaving six to be added.

Victorian clubs Croatia, Juventus and perhaps Fawkner and Polonia have the crowd-drawing potential and perhaps Azurri of Adelaide also could be included. Other candidates may have good teams but are not yet proven drawcards.

The NSL was formed in 1977 by strong State League clubs throughout eastern Australia, with rich sponsorship by Phillips Industries.

But the league no longer has such a level of sponsorship with the result that every club has to contribute \$20,000 a year towards air travel and administrative costs.

Wolves may sell stars, cut wages

Wollongong City might be forced to sell some of its best players after Corral Leagues Club announced last week it was drastically cutting its \$35,000 sponsorship of the soccer club.

The Leagues Club is the Wolves' major sponsor and soccer club secretary John Vlietstra said the announcement had come as a major shock.

The Wolves realise finding a sponsor to offset the \$35,000 loss won't be an easy task.

"If worse comes to worst we'll have to sell some of our best players," Vlietstra said. "At this stage I cannot see any other solution than drastically cutting players' wages."

"Player expenses amount to almost half of our total expenditure and unless we find another \$35,000 something has to give."

The Wolves, in their third season in top-class soccer, are largely dependent upon gate takings and heavy sponsorship for survival.

And this announcement by Corral Leagues Club has come as a savage blow to the Wolves Club, fighting desperately against great odds to maintain its link with the cream of Australian soccer.

But selling players to other clubs might not be easy, either, because few — if any — clubs can afford to buy them.

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Spotlight on our ills

Last of a four-part series

In this concluding article of the four-part series "Spotlight on our ills", we look at the few who affect and influence the many, leading off with the basic consideration that soccer in Australia has the federations it so richly deserves.

By
ROCKY DI ZIO



These bodies and individuals are, in fact, the products of the system, which they in turn influence and further shape into the colossal pantomime the game is in this country. It is the classic case of the vicious circle that all soccer lovers should attempt to break, so that the game gets a real chance in this vast continent that offers so much to achieve sporting excellence.

In soccer, as in national politics, there are eternal fights over State rights, federal centralism and a number of "Franklin River Dams." Overlapping of authority is a way of life, conflict of interests is a reality of life, confrontation is the spice of life and revolutions are always a possibility.

But inevitably the State politicians of the round ball, after defiant and inflammatory speeches in their mini parliaments, make the periodical pilgrimages to Sydney and finish up toeing the line. After all, you see, the "old men" in Sydney hold the purse strings, or rather the local agency of FIFA (the world government that rules from Geneva).

Since then politics have been

so much more interesting and gratifying. The ASF first gave political asylum to the rebel municipalities of the N.S.L. and then practically annexed them. Since then it has been trying to maintain absolute control over this prized dominion, at times by imposing puppet rulers who tried to keep everybody amused and happy with Leopards, Rams, Eagles, and even Gladiators and Gunners; at other times they used the whip on the most unruly elements like Marconi and Hellas.

The N.S.L. has kept fighting for independence and self-determination since the revolution; the State federations have remained committed to the destruction of the defectors even if they had formed a conglomerate under the protectorate of big brother ASF and accordingly were entitled to respect.

Behind the scenes the States, their sovereignty threatened by the expansionism of what had in fact become an ASF satellite, have stepped up the guerrilla warfare.

Siege

So the N.S.L. under siege from all sides and with serious internal problems of rising inflation, skyrocketing costs of overheads (normally referred to as a proplanes) and labor, and massive strikes by spectators, decided to smuggle out a roving ambassador to go overseas in an effort to attract sponsorship, to fight on. But the ASF, because of its Geneva connection, secured all the

money available and passed on to the N.S.L. only a little aid.

Rebuffed on the world political scene, the N.S.L. started to lure the municipalities of Juventus (Melb), Fawknor, Croatia, Ajax, Avala, Melita, Townsville, who were prone to rebellion because since the 1977 revolution they had been carrying most of the burden to keep the backward States going.

The latest barrage of the war was fired recently by the President of N.S.W., Karl Rodny, who proclaimed there would be no perverting of existing N.S.W. competitions, nor those of Victoria. No clubs would be started into surrendering to the States. But the States would be generous with the defeated and would grant each the status of State League clubs.

At this point somebody from the crowd dared to ask: "But what about soccer?" "Soccer? Who is he? How do you spell it? On whose side is he coming in?" asked an alarmed politician. And we must excuse him, because, you see, politicians tend to forget the innocent victims of wars.

Sounds fantastic? Not at all. Our soccer administrations have become politicians concerned mainly with power, with control, with who runs what, not so much how the game is run and progresses.

For them it is better to control a mediocre competition than to see an excellent one controlling itself or being controlled by other groups. Better to be presidents of ruins, than

spectators of a flourishing establishment. We have no policies, only politics of sectarian and personal aspiration.

Our ruling class has lost vision and direction. Many officials are past their prime (not only in age) and some others should never have reached the high places they are in. But who are we going to put in their places? The ruling class is self-preserving and self-perpetuating. It does not groom new talents, does not accept new blood, independent views, self criticism nor "rocking of the boat". So there is nobody coming through the system and ready and capable to take over. The inevitable vacancies have usually been filled by "good boys", by non-descripts, by yes men, by rubber stamps, by meekies who are happy to feed on the crumbs spilled by the powerful. And this practice is likely to continue.

This is not necessarily meant as a personal criticism of long-serving powerful officials like ASF president Sir Arthur George or VSF chairman Michael Weinstein; their contribution to the game has been enormous and they have been able to see far so long by largely self-financing their involvement and their many overseas trips.

But they often have been badly advised by the lackeys around them and they have been surrounded by such mediocrity as to make them look more like dictators. No doubt they must have made mistakes of their own, but who dared tell them so? Nor is this meant as a criticism of low-profile officials, like the chairman of the State League in Victoria, Vito Claiuro, who has for years provided the much needed conciliatory and stabilising force in one unruly and sectarian section of the game.

At times these "eternal officials" must have felt they had had enough, or somebody felt they had to be replaced. But who was, or is there, to fill their shoes? If Sir Arthur goes, and deep down I would hate to see that happen, Mike Weinstein must be the most likely one to step into his place, with Vito Claiuro in turn the most likely one to step into Weinstein's shoes. What a changing of guard, what an innovative new administration that would be!

Solutions

There are two possible solutions to this problem at the top. Either, clubs realise that they have to send to the Federations the best men they have so they can come through the system, and not the last one they can spare as is often the case, or members of the various boards must be found among experienced soccer people and administrators who are not directly connected with any club so that they can look after the long-term interest of the game, rather than the short-term petty interests of factions and individual clubs.

Officials then should be forced to retire on a rotating basis and be then eligible after another term. This would require the entitlement to life membership of some federations to be changed from a certain number of years of "continued" service to one of "total years" of service.

With a different set of officials, and periodical rejuvenation of their ranks and ideas, it could well be possible that one day we would have state federations capable to give leadership to the clubs, to give them administrative guidance and assistance, to offer negotiators and advice in dealing with civic authorities and businesses to make available financial and promotional expertise.

A club with problems should be able to go to the federation for help, rather than to be left to collapse. As they are now, State Federations are happy to control and rule over a panorama of amateur club administrations, of financial mismanagements, of poor public images.

The Victorian Soccer Federation, for instance, has a great reputation and keeps going rather well, or even appears to prosper. But as what? Not much more than a great efficient bureaucratic enterprise. And even this is mainly due to the incredible patience, ability

to walk a tight rope, excellent stamina, convincing powers and good administrative skills of the full-time secretary-manager George Wallace, well supported by a good staff.

In the meantime Frankston City goes bankrupt and most clubs are serious candidates for the same fate as soon as their creditors lose their patience. Many solicitors around the city are making a fortune out of civil debt proceedings against soccer clubs, or even winding-up petitions against some of them, an extreme course that usually is avoided at the last minute. But for how long?

The proliferation of new clubs has been encouraged in the past as a source of affiliation fees and because "if we do not accept new clubs, they form independent associations and we lose absolute control of the game in the State." So the dead wood increases, the soccer dollars and spectators are spread much too thinly and the whole set-up is going towards a complete, but

The ethnic base had nothing to do with its failure. When it was relaunched it was not as "an American game", but as a great international sport with the great international stars like Pele, Beckenbauer, Chinaglia; enough to mobilise all the soccer minded and to attract, by the sheer magic of those names and the incredible publicity they generated, even the rocks of the Great Canyon. And guess what else? Apart from the couple of dozen clubs in the Northern Australian Soccer League, the population of nearly 30 million people only has junior soccer!

That's what our roving experts should have seen. And that is what we should do now. Forget the statistics, forget the millions of clubs (and as many pompous positions for vain men), and let's see what the market can take. The answer would be very obvious: Two regionalised groups of the National League, backed by a powerful publicity machine

them some feeling of security and stability to allow them to do their coaching jobs.

People like Rasie, Collins, Arok, Thomson, McKendry, Margaritis, Scheinflug, Cirkovic and many more would hold their own anywhere in the world under very different conditions. Naturally if we want to have 10,000 clubs we do not have enough good coaches to go around.

Coaches in Australia seem to be there mainly as scapegoats for failures. Officials too often interfere or influence them; players do not have the discipline of overseas full-time professionals and often come from different soccer schools and are so set in their ways that no coach can change them to make them fit into the requirements of a particular team. To illustrate this, look at Scheinflug's failure with the senior national team and his incredible success with the young Soccerinos whom he had the chance of moulding into the players and the team he wanted.

Coaches though, should show a bit more professionalism by demanding complete independence from officials, should demand fairly long contracts to have time to produce results by grooming young talents. They should also understand the requirements and the resources of clubs, without making big, unjustified promises at the time of securing the position.

Referees

There is nothing worse than to spend so much money and so much money to build up a team and then lose crucial matches because of bad refereeing. Granted. But federations and clubs should do their utmost to improve the standard of referees without so much moaning about the present average lot. The reality of the matter is that the game is losing referees, instead of gaining them, and from such small numbers it is impossible to find high quality.

The answer is to attract bigger numbers to the profession to produce a better selection. But how? Everybody should strive to get the profession a better image and make the rewards associated with it worthwhile. At present a State League referee has to train one or two nights a week, he has to supply all his uniforms and equipment, has to travel to distant grounds, is exposed to certain insults, to possibly spitting and to possible physical violence. For all this he gets the princely sum of \$40 and until last year it was \$25!

The media

The soccer media, like most sections of the game, suffers from a number of problems, including amateurism. And because most of the game is such an unnewsworthy affair, newspapers cannot assign sufficient writers to cover the sport. Often you will find a single reporter in a newspaper having to cover hundreds of clubs and games, with so little to go on. There are not many stars to make good copy, not enough colorful personalities to "create" stories, not many able publicity officers at federation and club level to assist, to inspire, to push the soccer journalists. The media is often accused by officials of not giving the game a fair go. Some officials even maintain that if they had the media on their side soccer would overtake Australian Rules football as the number one sport. Typical of wanting to put the cart before the horses. Newspapers have created good rushes when gold had been found; have created scandals when some prominent people had been playing up or fiddling with somebody else's cash. Likewise they will build up the game of soccer when the game offers something real to build up. Newspapers are in the business of selling copies of their publications, and if there are stories that will do that, they will chase these stories and give them the space. Even ethnic television and radio, being non commercial institutions, cannot put on any trash to please a few. They are an even bigger responsibility to provide quality of entertainment for their viewers and listeners.

Try to come up with a good product in a good package and you will get all the exposure in the media you deserve.

Too many clubs chasing too few customers

fortunately "centrally controlled" shambles.

We should realise that growth for the sake of statistics is self-defeating. We should assess what the market can buy and what the game can provide and we should be innovative and daring enough to progress with the times.

Soccer in Australia has had a limited market among the ethnic communities ever since it was introduced into this country. By spreading its resources to the limit we have never been able to come up with a product and a package that would attract the non-ethnic community in great numbers.

And the comic effort to destroy the ethnic base of the game, by forcing clubs to change ethnic names, has been only counter-productive stupidity.

Witch-hunt

Spaghetti and pizza, just to mention two ethnic products, were introduced and marketed among the Italian community at first and then, being the good products they are, spread among the general community without changing their names into "noodles" or "pies" ... and the original market has never been neglected. Advertising of pizza houses and various brands of spaghetti is as heavy as ever in the local Italian press!

When the "ethnic witch-hunt" (to borrow a phrase from colleague Andrew Detre) was at its fiercest, the top ASF administrator at the time explained it to me this way: "We have studied the very successful soccer scene in North America, and its history. We found that in the past the game, very much on an ethnic basis, had flopped. But it succeeded beyond expectation when it was reintroduced as an "American game". Brilliant, absolutely brilliantly superficial.

If they had had any sense to look deeper about Australian soccer the situation in its true context, they would have come up with a totally different conclusion.

In North America the game had flopped for the very same reason it is doomed to flop here: it was too thinly spread,

and graced by some big names of world soccer.

Forget about the State Leagues, the Metropolitan Leagues, the Provisional Leagues, the everybody's leagues. Even now without the cream that would be absorbed by an enlarged National League, they are only names, with no money, no players nor coaches worthy of such names, no officials of any great ability, no proper facilities, no spectators!

Let's instead concentrate the best of all this into good amateur and junior competitors. Soccer is a spectators' sport more than a participation sport. The thousands of so-called "officials" "players" should go to watch the big games, and not clutter the game as a whole.

We should concentrate our not negligible resources, our best brains, all our dollars, our spectators and come up with a good product, properly packaged and marketed. We would never look back.

Can you imagine, with changes at the top, a South Melbourne Hellas v Juventus at Olympic Park, with a good sprinkling of players like Betegazi, Graziani, Keegan, Ardizoglu, with excellent facilities, with a stage-managed support show? They would come from overseas to watch it, and even from across the Melbourne cricket ground.

All the Frank Packards of this world would jump on the soccer bandwagon and we would have sponsors of the calibre of BHP and GMI.

Too much to expect? Not really, but in any case there is always a happy medium. But there would not be so many places for officials ... and that's a big problem, a great stumbling block!

Any such radical solution to the problems of the game would also solve all problems connected with coaches, referees and the media. But in the meantime, let's briefly have a look at them.

One fallacy about Australian soccer is that we do not have good coaches and we should be importing them. If anything, we should be importing officials who understand the role of coaches in the game, will support them, will not interfere with them and will give

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EXCLUSIVE

Shock, horror, oyvay and exclusive: we have found the secret diaries of Hugo Gormless, the man entrusted with the task of revivalling our soccer.

The diaries, wrapped in greaseproof paper, were in an abandoned pie factory, stacked in a crate and clearly marked: "Not For Human Consumption".

The documents are labelled "SOS" which has been decoded by Navy cryptographers and allegedly means "Save Our Soccer".

We are convinced the documents are genuine. A Bankstown ballboy, a city liftdriver and a Darlinghurst madame have all verified its authenticity.

Thanks to this lucky turn of events we can now reveal the dramatic plans drawn up to jet-propel Australian soccer into the late 19th century.

Because of the worldwide interest in this major discovery, the documents — in an abridged version — are simultaneously published by the Budgetary Times, the Wangarui Mercury and the Taranaki Daily "Long Live Our Heroic Revolution But Bugger The Russians," a publication close to the ruling junta.

The papers show, for the first time, the brilliant concepts and original ideas which will transform the game in this country.

Here are excerpts translated from a suburban Oz dialect:

ADMINISTRATION

It has been noted that only those support wholeheartedly the Administration who are part of it. Therefore we recommend that the Administration be slightly enlarged to also include all players and spectators, each with a vote until consensus is reached. The Executive has 5 million votes.

Stop press! Soccer gets its own Hitler diaries

TRAVEL COSTS

We have evidence to prove that part of the NSL's problem is the high travel cost. According to a daring theory, these expenses could be halved if the 16 teams were divided into two zones. That being the case we suggest that the 16 teams be divided into 16 zones thus reducing travel costs even further.

MIGRANT QUOTA

It is every country's duty to protect its home industries and soccer is no exception. In order to encourage Australian talent, all foreign imports should be banned forthwith unless they come from overseas.

MEDIA LIAISON

We recognise the vital part the various Media outlets can play in the game and recommend that the present policy of secrecy be terminated. The Media

should be allowed to find out when and where matches are to be played and what the results were. All other essential information will be passed on to them at the regular five-yearly press briefings.

GATE REVENUES

As the majority of clubs live or die by the income they generate at their matches, it is of the utmost importance that this source of livelihood be ensured, nay, increased. We thus suggest the following price structure: \$4 to get in, \$10 to get out at halftime and \$20 for kids who listen to rugby league or VFL matches on portable radio during soccer games.

RELOCATION

A thorough survey undertaken last Tuesday morning shows that several clubs lack popular (or even unpopular) support. Therefore it is recommended that these clubs be relocated to cities where they can reasonably expect a larger ethnic base. Thus APIA will play its home matches at Messina, Heidelberg at Pireus, Sydney City at Haifa; all games to be played by correspondence, as in chess. Clubs with minority support — Eskimos, Upper Voltans, Outer Mongolians, Longbards and Australians — will be abolished.

— Discoverer of the SOS documents,

Andrew Dettre

No top players,

so former fans stay home

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN

We talk about it as though it happened last century, possibly a week or two after the Second Ice Age. Yet it was in 1962-1963 — a mere 20 years ago.

Our soccer was alive and well, our crowds healthy. The 10,000 mark was bettered in 13 NSW matches while 27 others had attendances between 5,000 and 10,000. In one season...

A crowd of 23,000 saw Hellas and George Cross draw 1-1 at Olympic Park. APIA's average was over 7,400 a match, Pan Hellenic's 7,300.

An incredible 19,676 at the Sydney Sportsground saw these two teams meet while two double-headers at Wentworth Park produced crowds of 18,200 and 17,000 respectively.

Today no NSL match in Sydney could get anywhere near these figures; not with promotion, not with gimmicks, not by force.

Of course, the world around us has also changed dramatically since 1963; the entertainment possibilities have mushroomed, tastes have been modified.

Almost all spectator sports are experiencing lean years at a certain level. A low level, that is.

Grade cricket matches are totally unattended but the one-day series last summer got crowds of 50,000 and more.

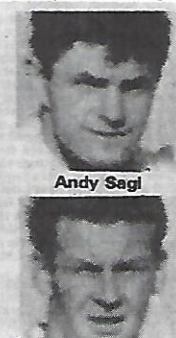
A few years ago Cosmos packed the Showground to overflowing. Bring out Brazil or Italy tomorrow and, even at \$20 a ticket, you will fill an Australian stadium.

Then pit two dull local State League sides against one another, charge \$2, offer incentives and anything else you like — and maybe a 100 or so will turn up.

People are sick of the mediocre; you can't even give away junk.

And cross your heart — a lot of our soccer nowadays is pure junk.

Only two things can drag people from the comfort of their home to soccer



Andy Sagi

Herbert Ninaus

matches: mad, uncontrolled club fanaticism or the prospect of artistic delight.

Club fanaticism, on the European scale, doesn't exist in Australia; not even city fanaticism. I doubt if the good citizens of Newcastle or Canberra care much whether their team is 5th or 15th.

That leaves sheer artistry, a display of skill, a war of wits — ball wizardry, if you like. And that's what is missing from our game.

Ah, yes, we did have it once. Take again 1963, a boom year when Europeans were still delighted to migrate to Australia to play soccer.

In 1963, the 12 first division clubs in NSW had about 90 Continental players in their ranks: Yugal had 18, Pan Hellenic 16, Croatia 13, APIA 12, St George 8... and even Canterbury and Auburn managed a total of 10 between them. (Here, under "Continental", I included the South Americans, then exclusively from Argentina.)

Names? Let me tickle your palate with just a few: Baumgartner, Barbazza, Giacometti, Jaros, Iglesias, Van Gaalen, Fernandez, Krgin, Cubero, Janczyk, Banicevic, Rodriguez, Masskey, Schauman, Levi, Mach, Ninaus, Jankowski, Sagi, Bosklopper, Gauto, Dunaj, Jellissavicz, Lazarevic, Stojanovic.

Then, gradually, the European intake dried up; clubs turned towards the cheaper and easier British markets.

Higher living standards in Europe also made their players think twice before coming here for peanuts when they could earn much more in North America or South Africa.

The result: our soccer today is heavily British-oriented. And like their cooking: it's nutritious, it's simple — and it's largely boring.

The smart Brits know this: that's the reason why so many of their best teams have European imports or naturally gifted colored players. They import from Europe — we import from Britain.

A quick glance at the composition of the 16 NSL teams shows some remarkable facts.

We have one veteran Australian (Scharmann, APIA), one little South American (Toro, a Chilean with Heidelberg), a super-veteran Hungaro-Yugoslav (Marton with St George) and a sprinkling of village-level Yugoslav imports at Footscray J.U.S.T. That's it.

It's an absolute sacrilege to compare then with the Baumgartners, Masseys or Dunajs of the 1960s in class — not to mention the huge numerical fall-off since those days.

Not one Italian, Greek, Dutch, German, Argentinian, Brazilian, Israeli or Scandinavian player in the whole NSL.

Is it any wonder that many of our teams play like the reserve side of Grimsby Town or Berwick Rangers?

Are we surprised that the thousands don't flock to watch two physical teams, 22 tough but fundamentally unskilled players kick, whack and bang the ball in any direction?

I'm not deriding British soccer; I know about Liverpool and admire Manchester United. But there are hundreds of Grimsbys for every Liverpool.

And anyway, what's the point of selling a British style to a predominantly non-British market in Australia?

Those who are deeply concerned with the fate of the NSL should give this some thought. And that includes the clubs.

I know that it's difficult to import quality players from Europe on shoestring budgets but I also know that without them, even those shoestrings will snap.

I know that we must do everything possible to encourage the development of local talent but should that be done at the exclusion of superior soccer skill which is not (or not yet) inherent in our youngsters?

I realise that Robbie Slater, David Lowe, Rod Brown or Dave Mitchell are very promising young players — but can you honestly compare them with the Ninauses, Giacomettis, Schaumans or Gautos of bygone years for entertainment value?

Unless we solve this problem, most of our soccer will remain even duller than an old Doris Day movie.

As our crowd figures conclusively prove, this is not the product that can be sold to a basically ethnic market.

Chance for Crino, Yankos, Dunn, Banfield?

Arok snub to Queensland!

By RICKY ROSSO

Socceroo coach Frank Arok has snubbed this weekend's Queensland v NSW clash in order to watch national team hopefuls taking part in a four team tournament in Newcastle and Gosford.

The tournament involves St George Budapest, Marconi, Newcastle and an Interstate Select comprising players Arok considers to be on the fringe of national team selection. They may include: Peter Laumet, Oscar Crino (Sydney Melbourne Hellas), Charlie Yankos, Jim Campbell (Heidelberg), Gerardo Gomez (Sydney City), Robbie Dunn (West Adelaide) and Neil Banfield (Adelaide City).

Arok considers it would be much more beneficial for him to watch these players in action rather than seeing the NSW team, which he knows well, and the Queensland side which comprises only Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions players.

His decision not to come to Queensland came as a major blow to QSF officials as they were hoping the match might prompt Arok to include a Queensland player in his squad for the three match series against England in June.

Arok says he will have four colleagues at the match who he will talk to in depth after the game to gauge the performances of players in both teams. But QSF officials were stunned to learn two of these people are understood to be NSW coach Johnny Watkins and captain John Kosmina.

While Queensland's insistence that both states field full strength teams had paid off thanks to the cancelling of this weekend's NSL fixtures, Arok's attitude seems to reflect the lack of interest in the match outside Queensland.

It is the second rebuff the QSF has had in its 100th year.

The 100th interstate match against Victoria in February lost much of its prestige when the national players from two states were called up for friendly internationals against New Zealand.

Queensland lost that game 9-2 thanks to goals from Ken Murphy and Doug Brown and will be facing an uphill battle to hold the strong NSW side.

NSW coach Watkins has named a squad which includes Australian squad members Kosmina, Peter Katholos,

Croatia tops

Croatia-Glenorchy took over leadership of Tasmania's Cadbury State League competition from Juventus Pioneer after beating White Eagles 2-1 last Wednesday night at Gorge Road.

University moved into sixth place with a 3-2 win over Metro-Ciarenmont, leaving White Eagles firmly entrenched at the bottom in place of the students.

Croatia hit the lead in the 36th minute when Oakes headed in Thomas's cross following a throw-in conceded in bizarre fashion by Michnews-Rok's goalkeeper, who had come a long way out of his goal to kick the ball out of the ground!

The second half goal came in injury time when Rosinski lost the ball to Nunn who put Thomas away for the easiest of goals.

— WALTER PLESS

Dave Ratcliffe and Marshall Soper. His squad is: Greg Woodhouse, Steve Watson, Ron Wheatley, Graham Jennings, Ratcliffe, Arno Bertonga, Mike O'Shea, Peter Stone, Katholos, Peter Kopoulos, (or Paul Kay), Kosmina, Soper, Mark Jankovics, Phil O'Connor.

By comparison, Queensland coach Bruce Stowell was forced by a lack of depth to rely totally on players from Queensland's two NSL clubs. His original 18-man squad contained 12 Brisbane City players and six from Lions.

Stowell was expected to

name his final 14 late this week but there could be as many as four changes from the team which lost to Victoria with city's Kim Wishart, Bobby Hamilton, Joe Cairney and Allan Hughes coming into the squad along with youngsters Allan Hunter (Lions), John Kowtan (City) and Robbie Farrow (Acacia Ridge).

It has been four years since Queensland last played NSW and on that occasion the Blues came from two goals behind to snatch a draw in the match which also was played at Perry Park.



Oscar Crino

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CROATIA FLYING HIGH

Croatia is flying high with nine points from five games and still the only undefeated side in the competition. Croatia beat Blacktown last Monday week and last Sunday came away with two more points at the expense of Avala.

Sutherland bounced back to the winning circle with a resounding 3-1 victory over hapless Auburn and is level pegging with Croatia on nine points but has played two more games than its arch rival from Fairfield. Blacktown Demons had their game against Polonia cancelled on Saturday and remain in second place only a point behind Melita who also didn't play this weekend due to a bye.

Manly Warringah played well against Yugal during the first 45 minutes, as if carried by the strong sea breeze to go three up, then fell away during the second period, but still collected two points.

At Kuringai, it was Clive Eaton who shone with two goals, to bring his tally to seven for the season. Steve Giffin, the nineteen year old keeper of Bankstown, was the



NSW State League with ALEX VESIC

waters, will hope for a great performance from goalkeeper Giffin to keep Croatia at bay.

Croatia will back up a little more than 36 hours later against Auburn. Despite six straight losses, Auburn has been the side which always gives Croatia a run for its money and I am sure it will do the same again with Croatia having to work hard for the points.

Bankstown on the other hand will also play its second match on Sunday, against the much improved Inter Monaro at Soccer Centre.

At Chopin Park, Avala should add to Polonia's problems, while Yugal will have to battle hard to make a game of it against the in-form Demons at Fraser Park.

At Arlington Oval, Canterbury will have to stop Terry Smith if it hopes to achieve a good result. Smith has been particularly sharp this year, scoring goals almost at will.

Manly 3 Yugal 1

Scorers: Smith, Falconer, Stuart (M), Baumgartner (V).
MANLY: Cassattini, Geoghegan, Doyle, K. Falconer, Scott, Noble, Fox, Van Helden (McGrath 67).
SMITH, P. Falconer, Stuart (Vale 77).

YUGAL: Wotton, Randall, Forrest, McIntosh, Clarke, Babian, Turkut, Baumgartner, Rokodera, Pahor (Gogic 45), Tanovski.

Manly subdued its visitor during the first spell of 45 minutes, scored three goals in the process, then fell away during the second period allowing Yugal to take command, score a goal and come close to scoring one or two more.

Yugal fell behind to a goal by Terry Smith after 14 minutes following a set piece play. Smith was on hand some eight metres away to swivel and hit the ball on the turn past bewildered Wotton.

From that point on it was all Manly and it was no surprise when Peter Falconer made it 2-0 from a free kick after 21 minutes. A desperate tackle by

Clarke just outside the area gave a free kick to Manly and Falconer bent his shot around the wall to beat the keeper.

Yugal's attempt to play the offside trap failed twice during this period and almost paid dearly for it on both occasions. Bruce Doyle made the initial break but was felled close to the line by Wotton, then with five minutes remaining in this half it was Peter Falconer who raced through and slipped his pass to Stuart who in turn managed to squeeze his shot past Wotton and the goal post to make it 3-0.

After 56 minutes Amanyi Rokodera shook off Manly's defence to cut through before slicing his cross to Ricky Baumgartner and the youngster made no mistake much to the delight of one spectator at the ground - none other than Leo Baumgartner, the father of the ex-St George junior and newly installed Yugal striker.

Stanko Tanovski hit the post soon after and one couldn't feel heeling that had that one gone in Manly would have had problems keeping its winning margin intact.

Auburn 1 Sutherland 3

Scorers: Prgomolj (A), Clinch 2, Groome (S).

AUBURN: Bowman, Kelly (Mango 66), Kilkelly, Prgomolj, Tappin, Delaney, Carey, Townsend (Allen 65), Kinsey.

SUTHERLAND: Haynes, Cashman, Watkins, Dalton, Scherfge, Johnston 72, Clinch, Harrington, Webber, Groome, Knowles (McNiece 77).

Auburn has suffered yet another defeat, this time at the hands of Sutherland but on this occasion one could not help the feeling that Auburn could only blame its own inadequacies for the loss.

Twice during this match Auburn had great chances. Following a chip by Kilkelly in the 33rd minute, Sutherland appeared beaten with Quigley some two metres away from goal and set to score. He swung at the ball and missed it completely!

The same "trick shot" was repeated by Kilkelly in the 72nd minute from a pass by Carney and again only two metres away from goal. Only a minute earlier Charlie Pro-

melja cut Sutherland's lead to a single goal. He headed past Haynes from a Kilkelly free kick and had the chance by Kilkelly been taken it would have been 2-2.

After a strong opening by both sides and some good saves by Bowman and Haynes, Sutherland scored two quick goals, with the first coming close to half time. Jimmy Webber was the provider and Shane Clinch made no mistake to give the Sharks the lead.

Almost from the kick off in the second half Sutherland scored again with Nigel Groome grabbing the chance to score from close range.

Then with the score at 2-1 and Auburn looking for an equaliser, in came Shane Clinch with a runaway effort to seal the game for the Sharks and make it 3-1.

Kuringai 2 Bankstown 1

Scorers: Eaton 2 (K), Hutton (B).
KURINGAI: Currie, Cowen, Hammond, Bartram, Robertson, Barry, Knight, Brockbank, Hunter (Gavin 80), Eaton.

BANKSTOWN: Giffin, Kennedy, Augustine, Beck, O'Neil, Blackwood, Baur, Hunter, York (Parker 65), Gilligan, W. Brown (Nocera 85).

Clive Eaton was the hero for Kuringai after scoring both goals in his side's 2-1 victory over Bankstown. The ex-Western Suburbs, Sydney Olympic and NSW representative was back to his best to nip in and beat Steve Giffin with a flick header after 50 minutes to give his side a well deserved lead.

Only a few minutes later Bankstown was on level terms with a goal from Hatton. Bertram dropped Allan Beck on the edge of the box and Peter Rampley awarded Bankstown the penalty. Hatton made no mistake and the teams were level.

Following this goal Bankstown brought on Wayne Parker for Kell York and suddenly things started to look rosy for Bankstown, but then came the magic of Eaton with seven minutes to go and that was the ball game. Brockbank steered the ball into the goal mouth and Eaton made no mistake latching onto it to beat Giffin.

Bankstown lost its third game for the year but not before putting up a valiant effort which almost caused the fancied Kuringai some heartache. Giffin, the nineteen year old goalkeeper was the man of the match as he repeatedly made some superb saves to keep the home side at bay.

Croatia 1 Avala 0

Scorer: Wally Savor 83.
CROATIA: Watson, A. Kovacic, Tomasich, Woods, Sharkey, Vidale, Radman, Savor, Arnold, Carrizzo, Holloway.

AVALA: Ahrens, Lembray, Milne, Barton, Paterson (Brown 55), Youseff, Moussini, Muniz, Tih, Bur-

ford. Croatia had to survive some anxious moments before winning against Avala by the slenderest of margins at King Tomislav Park last Sunday.

It was end-to-end play with Avala looking better than its host and at worst certainly not less dangerous than Croatia. But while Avala's forwards failed to convert their chances and Croatia struggled to find form, an ex-Avala and Marconi player, Raul Carrizzo, came to the rescue.

It was Carrizzo who took the free kick from the right hand side to float it perfectly towards Savor for the only goal of the game. Savor headed home and Ahrens made contact but failed to stop the ball and that was the goal that mattered.

Demons lose Anzac clash

CROATIA 2 (Wheatley o.g. 15th, Arnold 49th) BLACKTOWN DEMONS 0

CROATIA: Watson, A. Kovacic, Tomasich, Woods, Sharkey, Vidale, Rezo (80) Radman, Savor, Arnold, Carrizzo, Hensman (Holloway 12).
BLACKTOWN: Freeman, Wheatley, Rasmussen, Turnbull, Pointer, Selva, Brogan (O'Shane 69), Stoddart, Walker, McLaughlin, Kirwan.

Croatia remained the only undefeated side in the State League and still the hot favourite to take the title after its easy 2-0 win over Blacktown Demons at King Tomislav Park on Anzac Monday.

Following its week in Indonesia, with three wins against the top opposition over there, Croatia was all but written off against the Demons.

Tired from its travel and certainly leg weary after three games in seven days, backing up for its fourth game in eight days, the home side could not have been regarded as favourite and in fact most believed

that it was the Demons' day to win.

However, Croatia went ahead after 15 minutes after an enormous mess-up amongst the Demons' defenders and from that moment on it was all Croatia. Warren Turnbull failed to clear properly and Wally Savor accepted a gift pass to slam his shot into the net. Peter Freeman made the save but the ball fell out of his hands, then hit Wheatley to bounce back into the net.

Earlier on Freeman was involved in a collision with Peter Hensman and Croatia's winger was taken to hospital suffering from severe back pains. Later on it was established that Hensman would not be playing for several weeks.

Croatia went further ahead soon after the interval with the simplest of goals. Mark Holloway made the break before crossing for Graham Arnold to head home and that was the ball game.

It was all Croatia during the second period with Watson, in goal for Croatia, hardly tested.

Only paying customer can save NSL



RALE RASIC

In admitting new clubs to a reorganised National League, only one criterion should be applied: the ability of the clubs to attract paying customers.

That and nothing else will determine whether top soccer survives in this country.

The seven years of the NSL has shown that it's not good enough just to have poker machines, without spectators coming to watch the matches. Western Suburbs had poker machines but no supporters, and the club quickly fell by the wayside, to be gobbled up by APIA.

Mooroolbark had no spectators and they too dropped out. Other clubs are in trouble now because of lack of support.

Performance on the field is not a guarantee of success for all clubs. If it were, Sydney City would have many thousands of people flocking through the gates.

It reminds me of Ajax Amsterdam during that club's best years, when it was the triple European champion. Sure, Ajax made big money from exorbitant match fees playing but it couldn't draw really big crowds at home in Holland.

Real Madrid, Liverpool, Manchester United and other traditional giants on the other hand, have their stadiums overflowing when they're doing really well. It comes down to tradition - and tradition can't be created overnight as Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong have found. Canberra, in fact, probably would no longer exist had it not been for the Greek connection it found last year through Downer Olympic.

Tradition has created great clubs in Australia, too - South Melbourne Hellas, APIA, Preston-Makedonia, Sydney Olympic (ex-Pan Hellenic), Marconi, and a few that are in the State Leagues although they should have been part of the NSL when it started. These clubs, when they do well, command big support and can help keep the others alive.

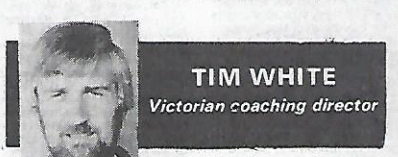
So it is pointless, when regionalising the league next year, to admit any club that hasn't the necessary crowd support. We all know which clubs have the tradition and the crowd support to match. We all know which clubs we all know which clubs are successful they may have been on the field - do not demand crowd support, and if we include them in the NSL, we would be putting them in jeopardy, the same way Mooroolbark and Western Suburbs were put into jeopardy.

Personally, I would like to see the NSL carrying on its present form - for no-one can deny that the NSL has lifted the playing standard, and has resulted in much better spectator facilities.

But I also acknowledge that in the present economic climate of escalating air fares and dwindling sponsorship support, we must cut costs and maximise gates.

So it is inevitable that we have to reorganise, but for heaven's sake, let's not perpetuate a problem that has contributed to our present plight. Let's admit only those clubs that have the ability to cope and to help the NSL to survive.

I repeat: the paying customer is the only answer to our ills.



TIM WHITE
Victorian coaching director

"Charlie Yankos just pipped Alan Hunter for the man of the match."

This was reported by Peter Desira following the NSL game between Heidelberg and Brisbane Lions and was a heartening observation considering the age of the two players.

This is a great reason for coaches to observe our best youngsters in action at the national youth championships in Canberra this month.

From the Queensland youth teams of the past two years, current NSL leader Brisbane City has John Kowian and Steve Glackner in the side. Frank Farina and Ray Junna are at the Institute of Sports. Lions boast Alan Hunter, Russell Stewart and Danny Wright.

The New South Wales youngsters showed some of the talent to emerge from the institute last week when Marconi annihilated Footscray J.U.S.T. McCulloch and Rod Brown are just two of the lads who have delighted us at Canberra over the last two years. Added to this are Jim Patikas (Olympic) who needs no introductions, Robbie Slater (St. George), Graeme Fletcher (Sydney City), Michael McLaughlin and Ray Vilestara (Wollongong) just to mention a few.

South Australia also has produced some talented youngsters and players like Joe Mullen, Peter Rankin, Stephen Maxwell (Adelaide City), Brenton Hiera (West Adelaide) and David Miller of State League Champions Azzurri, have made a big impact in the NSL and South Australian soccer scenes.

Although I am not very familiar with the West Australian scene, players like Frank Farone, Roy Jones and Anthony Franken all are member of the Australian youth teams. Tasmania too has produced some players with the best known being Lucio Fabrizio currently a member of the Australian youth squad.

The A.C.T. can boast of Andrew Young, a regular member of the Canberra Arrows line-up, Marko Perinovic who recently made his debut for the Arrows and current Australian youth teams goalkeeper Chris Hummel.

Victoria has produced some talent from the national championships. Fab Incantalupo is playing in his second World Youth Cup championship and is joined in this year's squad by Marcello Salvo (A.I.S.). On Opasinas is a regular member of NSL team Preston Makedonia, John Mihalidis is at A.I.S. and the following players are established in the Victorian State League: Ian Rodhouse (Box Hill), Bruno Cozzella (Fawkner), Viado Bozinovski (St. Melbourne), Daniel Beranic, Ron Kremers (Green Gully), Peter Constantinou (Northcote City).

The above mentioned players already have proven that talent is being produced and that the same talent can perform at the highest level.

It is obvious that a number of clubs have realised that the best investment for long term success rests on correct and proper development of youth.

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BORAL BRICKS

Brisbane City's big, blond defender Peter Tokesi has moved to within five votes of Heidelberg's Charlie Yankos, who still leads in the voting for the Boral Bricks \$1500 national best player award.

Yankos did not get any votes this week, while Tokesi picked up four with a strong display in Brisbane City's 2-2 draw with Sydney City in Lismore.

Wollongong's brilliant forward Phil O'Connor jumped from equal ninth to third place, and now trails Yankos by 13 votes.

John Kosmina leads in the Boral Bricks \$1000 top scorer's award, bringing his tally to six

with a goal against Brisbane City.

Charlie Egan of South Melbourne and Phil O'Connor joined Marshall Soper of Olympic in equal second position. All have five goals.

And David Lowe of Newcastle made up ground by scoring twice against Hellas to bring his total to four.

NEWCASTLE KB UNITED 5 (Lowe 2, Cowburn, Lee, Jones) **SOUTH MELBOURNE** 5 (Egan, Woodin) at Middle Park, Crowd about 3000. Votes by Laurie Schwab: 6. Jones (N), 5. Mason (N), 4. Lowe (N), 3. Lee (N), 2. Holford (SM), 1. Cowburn (N). **CANBERRA ARROWS** 3

(Bryant, G. Byrne, Gibson) **WOLLONGONG** 1 (O'Connor) at Bruce Stadium, Crowd 1, 315. Votes by Peter Windsor: 6. Farina (C), 5. O'Connor (W), 4. Preston (W), 3. Hoszowski (C), 2. D. Gibson (C), 1. Cole (C). **SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH** 2

(Kosmina, de Marigny) **BRISBANE CITY** 2 (Bromfield, Wilkinson) at Lakes Oval, Lismore, Crowd 2300. Votes by The Bystander: 6. O'Connor (SC), 5. Wilkinson (BC), 4. Tokesi (BC), 3. Kay (SC), 2. Pezzano (SC), 1. Watson (SC).

BORAL BRICKS

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WELL, WELL WHAT A COINCIDENCE

The NSL is keeping secret the identity of the invisible hand which thrust forward, out of the NSL Cup, the names of the cup semi-finalists during the draw conducted on channel 9/28 last Friday night.

Four balls, representing Olympic, Marconi, South Melbourne Hellas and Heidelberg, were dropped into the cup by commentator Mike Hill under the watchful eye of NSL secretary Stefan Kamasz.

Lo and behold, Kamasz drew out the ball representing Hellas first, followed by the Heidelberg ball. Amazing! A Melbourne derby between Hellas and Heidelberg. Then Kamasz drew out the Olympic and Marconi balls. More amazement. A Sydney derby between Olympic and Marconi.

The dates and venues of the semi-finals are yet to be decided but it's probable that the cup final will be a two-legged affair.

"At the start of the season when we talked about the possibility of a Sydney v Melbourne cup final, there was pressure for it to be played in two legs. No doubt that pressure will surface again," said Kamasz.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

BUSY WEEKEND IN TASMANIA

Rapid-West Point made hard work of disposing of Howrah in a postponed first round match of the Statewide Cup competition in Tasmania.

An own goal by Richardson in the 8th minute put Rapid on the way but it wasn't until the 33rd minute that Southworth headed a second from Dale Blake's left-wing cross.

That's how the score stayed until the end and Rapid must be worried about its lack of striking power. It had chance after chance and Howrah might easily have scored on a couple of occasions to make things embarrassing for the reigning champion.

In the other postponed game, White Eagles finally hit form to win its first game of the season 4-2 against Caledonians, the team that had beaten it 2-0 in the season's opening league match.

Goalkeeper Michlewski put Eagles in front with a dubious penalty after 20 minutes. Parker clipped home the equalizer from Maccalini's

pass after 32 minutes and the game was poised to swing either way.

The turning point came in the 63rd minute when White Eagles was awarded a free kick on the edge of the Calles' penalty area. Rybak hit a superb shot around the wall and into the roof of the net. In the next two minutes, Eagles scored two more goals through Mark Leszczynski and Chris Witek to make certain of victory. Angel, a former White Eagles player, scored a consolation goal for Calles with two minutes remaining.

— WALTER PLESS

No NSL this week

There are no NSL games this weekend.

The entire round has been called off because players are required for the Queensland v NSW match in Sydney on Sunday.

The round has been shifted to the end of the season.

The next round of NSL games is: Heidelberg v Sydney Olympic, St George v Marconi, Wollongong v Brisbane Lions, Brisbane City v Canberra, Newcastle v Sydney City, APIA v SM-Hellas, Makedonia v West Adelaide, Adelaide City v JUST.



Tony Kovac

Kovac hits at louts

Footscray J.U.S.T.'s life president, Tony Kovac, has hit out strongly over a demonstration by spectators after the club's 0-4 loss to Marconi two weeks ago.

"J.U.S.T. has about 2000 loyal supporters who come along to our games and back the club 100 per cent but we are deeply concerned by a few dozen who are creating problems and upsetting the players, coach and committee."

"Zika Karic and his committee are doing everything they can for the good of the club and all the fans must realise that when you appoint a new coach, you have to give him time to settle down. We will not tolerate wild groups of troublemakers. If they can't control themselves for the good of the game and the club, they shouldn't come to our games. They cause a problem that the club does not deserve."

"I have full trust in Zika Karic and the committee, who are working very hard to establish a strong foundation for J.U.S.T. If we all get behind them, we will achieve firm stability for the future."

Harvard's offer to a young 'Roo

Harvard University of Boston has offered a scholarship to a young Australian soccer player.

"We assume this is a direct result of the success of our national youth team," ASF secretary Brian Emery said this week.

"It's welcome recognition for our soccer. It puts our sport in the same category as swimming and athletics, for top Australian exponents in both those fields have taken up scholarships overseas."

The scholarship applies from the middle of 1984.

Mr. Emery said the ASF probably would advise the States to accept applications from young players of a suitable academic standard. Obviously, the successful candidate will have to be a matriculant.

"A committee then will be set up to look at the candidates' academic levels and their soccer ability," Mr. Emery said.



Hiern of West Adelaide gets his head in front of APIA's Gonovese. West Adelaide won 3-2.

Cameroon, Uruguay and who?

The Australian Soccer Federation is considering four national teams for inclusion in an international tournament to be played here in November.

Cameroon, Uruguay and Australia are the other three contestants.

China was to have competed, but withdrew.

The tournament will be played in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and perhaps Adelaide as double-headers on Wednesday, Sunday, Wednesday and Sunday.

After the tournament, the Socceros go to Singapore to defend the Merlion Trophy it won last year.

The Merlion Trophy competition will run from December 4 to 18.

But New Zealand won't be there.

The NZFA Secretary accepted an invitation to compete providing that the squad's assembly costs were subsidised by the Singapore federation.

Having guaranteed travelling and accommodation expenses, the Singaporeans decided against contributing towards the \$30,000 required to assemble and prepare New Zealand's contingent.

NZFA chairman Charlie Dempsey therefore announced that his team would not be competing, although national coach Allan Jones is believed to favor the Merlion as a valuable build-up towards the New Year's Olympic qualifiers.

But it will still be a busy year for the Kiwis, for apart from the Olympics, they are scheduled to play in June's South Korean President's Cup.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 **FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.** 1 (Lufic) at Pratten Park, Crowd 5032. Votes by Peter Scott: 6. Boland (JUST), 5. Kyriakoulas (JUST), 4. Tutill (JUST), 3. Simic (JUST), 2. Jennings (SO), 1. Lujic (JUST).

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 2 **BOZANIC** pen, Licata) **HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER** 0 at Marconi Stadium. Votes by Alex Vesic: 6. McCulloch (M), 5. Sermani (M), 4. Henderson (M), 3. Bozanic (M), 2. Spanos (H), 1. Rizzotto (M).

Leaders: 35. Yankos (H), 30. Tokesi (BC), 22. P. O'Connor (W), 21. Greedy (St.G), Bryant (C), Vilestrat (W), Odzakov (Mak), 20. Henderson (M), G. Campbell (Mak), 19. R. Stewart (BL), Burke, Lowe (N).

18. Hoszowski (C), Spanos (H), 17. Davidson (SM), McCulloch (M), Kosmina (SC), 16. Patikas (SO), 15. Dakos (SO), B. Nyskohus (AC), Perry (BC), 14. Ratcliffe (St.G), Dunn (WA), Murphy (SM), Sermani (M), Bradley (APIA), 13. Banfield (AC), Hamilton (BC), Watson (N), 12. Stone (St.G), Sproul (WA), Holford (SM), Rizzotto (M), Gibson (C), Dunleavy (W), Lucchesi, Jones (Mak), Boland (JUST), 11. Sken (St.G), Bertogna (APIA), Kay (SC), Hunter (BL), Kyriakoulas (JUST).

LEADING SCORERS: 6. Kosmina (SC), 5. Soper (APIA), Egan (SM), O'Connor (W), 4. Bryant (C), Hamilton (BC), Lowe, Mountford (N), 3. Redmond (C), Mullen (AC), J. Campbell (H), Wright (BL), Ward, Incchesi (Mak).



o The Rale Rasic Soccer Camps are back — and youngsters like this one will experience the thrill of being coached by Rasic and other top coaches at Middle Park in the school holidays. Full details of the camps appear below.



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Stormclouds gather over our referees

A major stormcloud is gathering on the horizon of Australian soccer, one that could have been forecast many years ago — but wasn't.

As we smugly sit back and relish the war of words which has erupted in Rugby League over the standards of refereeing, and as we even get the chance to contemplate the beginning of similar problems in the Victorian Football League, we should take a closer look at our own backyard.

The simple, sad fact is that for the best part of two decades now, Tony Boskovic has been — and still is — easily

the best referee in Australia. Sure, there have been a number of others who bobbed up from time to time, and showed encouraging signs of developing to NSL and even international standard.

But, most of these promising whistlers either drop out prematurely, or sink back into relative mediocrity.

The Australian Soccer Federation ought to examine the

situation in detail and as a matter of utmost urgency.

No sport can develop to its fullest potential in the absence of efficient and skilful officiating.

We must find out the answers as to why we have managed to unearth only one Boskovic.

What can be done to retain and further develop the more promising referees on the scene now?

The warning signs are present in abundance, the coaches are starting to speak out bitterly and observers such as I are dismayed when they see the kind of refereeing which was evident in matches on the Anzac Day weekend.

Simple advice

If the Sydney City Hakoah boys looked extremely motivated in their match against St George Budapest on Anzac Day, much of the "credit" for their spirited display was awarded to rival coach Frank Arok by Eddie Thomson.

The Hakoah supremo gleefully recalled his pre-match instructions to his men. "Remember what you read in the papers this week!"

He was referring to Arok's reported comment about how his

FOCUS

by PETER SCOTT

NSL after the Anzac Day weekend.

Clever play

St George Budapest is using a clever and unusual play in its attempt to climb out of a financial hole.

Members of Sydney's Hungarian community have been circled — in Hungarian — seeking donations for the Budapest play.

Look at what happened with Hakoah this year — and help us do better, states the Budapest committee's plea.

There are some people down Bondi way who are not exactly appreciative of the comparison.

APIA saga

The saga of Leichhardt Oval continues, clouded by a series of statements from Rugby League personalities which are misleading and hostile in the extreme.

Leichhardt Council elders are also to blame, as they must have giant-size splinters in their collective bottoms by now, as a result of their fence-sitting.

Nor has the NSW Govern-

been any help in the situation.

Lambert Park is vandalised and burnt out, Leichhardt rate-payers — including soccer fans in general and the huge Italian community — have contributed \$700,000 to Leichhardt Oval's upgrading and outside events such as the KB Cup still have preference over local soccer.

How about the ASF and the NSL lending their weight publicly to APIA's struggle?

Up in smoke

The ASF and its president are very active in another area, that of defending the tobacco lobby and its advertising and sponsorship involvement with sport.

Big money is involved; there's no doubt about that.

Just two words of warning: Firstly, be careful not to allow soccer to be stained by some of the less than proper tactics of the tobacco giants in the current campaign.

And secondly, be realistic and accept the simple fact that sooner or later — but in the foreseeable future — tobacco advertising and sponsorship through sports will be banned.

Let's not put too many of

DEFENDER SEEKS CLUB

GERRY McKENNA, who played one season of State League with Altona City, and one season Metro League with Bell Park, is on a free transfer and is seeking a club. Can play anywhere in the back four.

Ring 404 3277 after hours

Odzakov strikes, then Ollerton puts boot in

Makedonia 2 Adel City 1

Scorers: 0-1 Carter 2m, 1-1 Iliiski 52m, 2-1 Ozdakov 92m
Ground: Connor Reserve
Attendance: 4,000
Referee: Mellings 9
Cautions: nil

MAKEDONIA: Wilson 7; Opatina 7; Todorovski (Ll-vingsstone 10m, 6), Jones 6, McMillan 7; Iliiski 6, Flavell 8, Ozdakov 6; Lucchesi 8, Ward 7, Campbell 9. Coach Peter Ollerton.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally 7, Cole 7 (Shillabeer 83m), Banfield 8, Nykhus 8, B. 8, Dadds 6; Motta 6, Blair 8, Mullen 6; Villani 7, Maxwell 7, Carter 6. Coach Bobby Ferguson.

For some reason, Peter Ollerton likes to draw comparisons between his side and South Melbourne Hellas.

He has done it a few times over the past weeks and he was at it again on Sunday after Makedonia had come from behind to grab this important victory with an injury time goal by Zarko Ozdakov.

"People keep saying we're not a classy side and that we don't deserve to be up there (at the top of the table)."

"But you look at South Melbourne. Their defence is probably worth \$100,000 yet they still concede five goals and don't know where they're going," said Ollerton, grinning slyly.

"There's no point saying we're going to win the League at this stage."

"We'll just keep on taking each week as it comes. "One thing's definite and that is the team spirit here is different from past seasons and it's showing in the results."



Peter Desira

Odzakov headed in the winner one minute 45 seconds past the 90 minute mark in a crowded penalty area after Gary Ward had nodded on George Campbell's inswinging corner.

The goal was his first in the League since joining Makedonia from Vardar in the close-season and he was immediately swamped by overjoyed supporters.

"When it's all said and done, that was our worst performance of the season but we still won it — the pride and the spirit carried us through."

"When we start playing well, we're going to beat sides a lot more easily," Ollerton said.

The coach's remarks were in stark contrast with his half-time talk in which he said mostly unprintable things to the players after a "diabolical first half."

Makedonia fell behind after only two minutes when Les Carter intercepted an atrocious crossfield pass from near the byline by George McMillan.

Carter had time to steady and plant the ball firmly past Richard Wilson from the edge of the box.

George Todorovski, who started the match with a heavily strapped thigh and was badly beaten for pace in the early exchanges, signalled to the bench and was substituted after only 10 minutes to add to the confusion.

Adelaide City then took complete control and looked dangerous every time they moved forward.

Charlie Villani created havoc with his runs down the right, Stewart Blair completely dictated things in midfield and Neil Banfield came forward with gay abandon, going past players like they weren't there.

The Preston revival started at half time.

Gary Ward was carried off just before the break but came back on with five stitches inserted in a deep gash in his calf to revitalise the team.

Ollerton moved McMillan from fullback to partner Ward in attack and from then on Makedonia

looked a completely different team.

Claude Lucchesi, who had moved back to grab some control of midfield, made the equaliser in the 52nd minute with a cross from the right which was met with a powerful header by Zoran Iliiski making a run from deep.

Adelaide City defended well for the rest of the match and it looked like they had done enough to get a point, but then came the injury time winner which put their hopes on the skids.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

Last week's standings in brackets:

| | | HOME | | | | | AWAY | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|------|---|---|----|----|------|---|---|----|-------|-------|-----|
| | | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Gls | Pts |
| 1. | (2) Preston-Makedonia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 12:9 | 16 |
| 2. | (4) Newcastle KB United | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 15:9 | 14 |
| *3. | (1) Brisbane City | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 14:9 | 14 |
| 4. | (8) West Adelaide Hellas | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8:7 | 14 |
| 5. | (7) Sydney City Hakooah | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 11:11 | 12 | |
| 6. | (3) Heidelberg-Alexander | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7:7 | 12 |
| 7. | (9) Canberra Arrows | 3 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 17:10 | 11 |
| 8. | (5) Sydney Olympic | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 10:9 | 11 |
| *9. | (6) St. George Budapest | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8:4 | 11 |
| 10. | (14) Marconi-Fairfield | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9:9 | 10 |
| *11. | (11) APIA-Leichhardt | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6:7 | 8 |
| 12. | (10) South Melbourne Hellas | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 11:14 | 8 |
| 13. | (12) Adelaide City Juventus | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8:12 | 8 |
| 14. | (13) Wollongong | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 10:13 | 7 |
| *15. | (15) Brisbane Lions | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 8:12 | 7 |
| 16. | (16) Footscray J.U.S.T. | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6:17 | 7 |

*Denotes match in hand.

Saturday experiment fails

Canberra 3 Wollongong 1



Peter Windsor

CANBERRA: Hozowski, 8, Young, 7, Murray, 7, West, 8, C. Byrne, 7, T. Byrne, 8, T. Byrne, 8, MacLaren, 7, Cole, 8, Bryant, 8 (Porinovic, 45th, 8), Gibson, 8, Farina, 8.
WOLLONGONG: Preston, 8, Willis, 7, Vlastos, 8, Dunlop, 7, Pollard, 7, Gaffney, 7.

FLAMING, 7, Ainsworth, 7, (McBreen, 65th, 7); Kerr, 7, Cotton, 8, O'Connor, 8.
Scorers: Can: Bryant, G. Bryant, Can, Gibson, W. O'Connor.
Ref: Mr Bob Moe.
Crowd: 1,315
Cautions: Fleming, Pollard.

A hotly disputed penalty that turned the tide Canberra's way, and then a dramatic goal saw Canberra retain its home record by topping draw specialists Wollongong 3-1 in Canberra on Saturday.

The penalty came just two minutes into the second half with the teams tied 1-1 at the half-time break.

This was a game of great pace, great excitement and total entertainment value — one watched, unfortunately, by a disappointing 1,315 spectators.

And this despite Canberra's sunbaked home record so far in 1983!

Inevitably, I would suggest, Canberra's directors will now move back to Sunday soccer. It was just the excuse they wanted.

It is one that once more will bring them into conflict with the 'State' soccer body — the ACT Soccer Federation — and the Junior League.

Canberra took the lead in the 20th minute. Awarded a

free kick near the edge of area it was taken by Bryant and bent around the wall and into the far corner of the net.

Wollongong, against the run of play, equalised in the 30th minute. It was Cotton who slipped the ball from the free-kick to O'Connor and O'Connor found the net with a perfectly placed drive.

Then came the turning point — the penalty, one hotly disputed by Wollongong's coach Willie Wallace who later bitterly criticised the referee's handling of the game — a sentiment echoed by Canberra coach George Murray.

It was the second-half replacement for Steve Bryant, 18-year-old Marko Perinovic, who began the move that produced the penalty. He forced his way down the right flank and crossed to Farina.

Two defenders closed on Farina and referee Bob Mee blew immediately for the penalty.

Gary Byrne took the kick and scored — but not before Preston had tried valiantly to save by getting a hand to the ball but only sufficiently to prod it into the roof of the net.

And Ian Gibson's 50th minute goal was a gem. Preston had slide tackled Perinovic to save well, only to slot the ball to Gibson who immediately let loose a drive from fully 40 metres that slammed into the back of the net.

Spoilt by rain

By The Bystander

Syd City 2 Brisb City 2

Scorers: Syd-Kosmina 26th min; De Marigny 87th min. Brisb-Bromfield 57th min; Wilkinson 74th min.
Ground: Oakes Oval, Lismore
Crowd — 2300
Referee: Tony Boskovic 9
Cautions: Kay (SC) Bromfield (BC).

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano 8, Cant 5, Robertson 7, O'Connor 9, Bruce 6, Kay 8, Watson 8, Barnes 8, Gomez 7, Kosmina 6, Boden 5 (De Marigny 87th).

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 7, Hamilton 8, Wilkinson 9, Tokasi 9, Perry 7, Liddell 6, Bromfield 8, Pimblett 7, Hughes 6, Glockner 8, Williamson 8.

Lismore soccer officials were disappointed that the drought decided to break at the weekend but the experiment to bring NSL to this city can be considered a success despite the poor crowd.

Obviously the crowd figure indicates otherwise but only the most dedicated supporters would venture out in such conditions.

Eddie Thomson, the Sydney City coach, and Jim Hermiston, his counterpart at Brisbane City, both promised during the week preceding the game that they would entertain and they did just that.

Although there had been a lot of rain the ground was sur-

prisingly firm and the only bad spot was the cricket pitch area.

Kosmina opened the scoring after 26 minutes when he headed home a cross from Watson. Murray Barnes had started the move wide on the left and he knocked it to Kay moving through the middle who moved it on to Watson wide on the right.

The game was one of two halves. Brisbane City soaked up a lot of pressure in the first half and proved the better side in the second.

Gary Bromfield equalised in the 57th, and it's doubtful he has scored anything easier. Tony Pezzano, the Sydney City goalkeeper, made a brilliant reflex save but could only push it to the crossbar and it rebounded to Bromfield, faced with an open goal about two yards out.

Brisbane City took the lead after 75 minutes with the goal of the game from Billy Wilkinson. The ball was being scrambled around in the penalty area and was cleared to Wilkinson running wide on the left.

From 35 metres he chipped the ball into the top right hand corner of the net, giving Pezzano no chance.

Jean-Paul Mdrigny had replaced Boden and three minutes from the final whistle he got his first NSL goal to give Sydney City 9 points. Again the ball wasn't cleared properly and it went to De Marigny on the edge of the penalty area.

NSL team of the week

In brackets: No. of appearances in Team of the Week.

BOLAND (1)

(Footscray JUST)

MARIANI (1)

(APIA)

KYRIAKOULEAS (1) S. O'CONNOR (1) WILKINSON (1)

(Footscray JUST) (Syd. City) (Brisb. City)

SERMANNI (2) MASON (1) MCCULLOCH (3) JONES (1)

(Marconi) (Newcastle) (Marconi) (Newcastle)

FARINA (1)

(Canberra)

G. CAMPBELL (1)

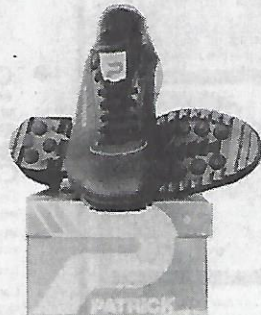
(Makedonia)

PATRICK



'Keegan'
screw-in

\$89⁹⁹



'Stabil'

\$64⁹⁹



'Keegan Star'
moulded sole

\$79⁹⁹

SOCCER CITY

129 Grey Street, St Kilda 534 5559

ALWAYS FIRST WITH THE BEST

West Adelaide was truly blessed in this entertaining match which came alive in a furious second half.

APIA after having to come from behind twice, had a groggy West against the ropes but failed to deliver the lethal blow when it was critical.

West was able to punish APIA's defensive lapses just when it seemed in danger of falling apart. Coach Alan Vest kept to his promise of earlier in the week by reshuffling his side to cover the absence through injury of sweeper Neil McGachey and striker Paul Wormley.

Reserves player Steve Baker came in for McGachey at the back with Chris Manou — a bargain buy from Adelaide City a fortnight ago — in midfield and big Robbie Dunn switching from stopper to central striker.

The surprise move of Dunn had mixed success. Dunn scored with a blistering close-range drive after only eight minutes and had two other chances to cement West's hold before half-time.

Yet while Dunn was a conspicuous thorn up front, the spot he vacated exposed the West defence, as big Bertie Mariani emphasised in the 67th minute when, unopposed, he casually headed the ball past helpless Sproul.

APIA took most of the first half to get its game going and, when it did, it looked far superior.

West's hane over the seasons has been an inconsistent midfield line and it seems to still be a problem although Marcou, celebrating his 21st

birthday, offers promise of things to come with his tenacious fighting spirit and heavy workrate.

APIA's trio of Butler, Bradley and Shannan exposed his weakness during the second half.

Morsello ran Baker ragged while Treddinnick gave tall Hieth a migraine.

APIA's forward thrusts in the second half had more urgency and purpose whereas Wests, desperate in defence, had to make its break-aways count.

And this it did.

Morsello's well-earned leveller was wiped out only four minutes later when Honeyman, loose on the right, ostensibly squared for Manou. Honeyman had, in fact, fired a low drive which Woodhouse failed to block and the ball struck Manou's leg as the towering midfielder moved in for the final blow.

APIA nevertheless remained composed and, after a fine build-up down the left, Mariani, lurking alone in the box, finished off a Sharmann cross.

As APIA was searching for the winner, Heys reared his red head, in an ominous show of alarm. He burst clear six minutes from the end with only Woodhouse to beat, but the plucky APIA goalie brilliantly managed to take the pace off the ball just as it seemed to be going past him.

But Heys precipitated APIA's downfall a minute from time when he sharply turned inside Mariani, only to be felled by the defender as he was about to let loose. Amey, cool and confident, wasted no time in converting the penalty.

So in the end, APIA's sense of adventure and flair amounted to nothing.

They did have many good players and dangermen in the elusive Morsello and the quick-thinking Treddinnick but it was two vital lapses in concentration at the most inopportune time that beat them.



APIA's Paul Carter (left) dashes past West's Chris Manou. Picture by FRANK HOBBS.

Smash-grab JUST causes major upset

Footy. JUST 1 Sods. Olymp. 0

At Pratten Park.
Referee: Doug Rennie 5.
Crowd: 5932.
Scorer: Lujic 65th min.
Cautions: Simic, Patson, Soper.

OLYMPIC: Malar 6, Rogers 8, Herbert 6, Dakos 7, Jennings 7, Rakopoulos 5 (Coody 67th min), Patikas 6, Phillips 7, Soper 7, Katholos 6, Patterson 7.

JUST: Boland 8, Taylor 7, Belic 7, Tuttil 8, Kyriakoulas 6, Hazabent 7, Curovic 6, Paton 7, Carroll 6, Simic 7 (Macloed 86th min), Lujic 7.

Calm determination and an almost air-tight defence nabbed three vitally important points for Footscray JUST in what must be one of the major upsets of the NSL season.

As a result of the two coaches' tactics the match provided precious little entertainment for the almost 6000 fans.

That Footscray JUST would concentrate mainly on defence was fairly predictable, but the thinking behind Olympic's tactics will have to be filed under "soccer's great mysteries".

Even in the dying minutes and with a one-goal deficit against them, Olympic continued to operate with a "libero" style sweeper against who was essentially a one or two-man offence.

While Olympic had most of the possession, such conservative tactics always threatened disaster, ever increasing as time ran out.

The only times the Sydneysiders looked likely to score were in the 17th minute, when Boland was caught out of position and Patterson's header had to be deflected off the line by Kyriakoulas, who put on a repeat performance in the 84th

minute, this time saving a shot from Katholos.

After half time Tuttil, another lower of strength for JUST, did well to clear a shot from Phillips, while on every other occasion Olympic threatened, goalie Dennis Boland flew hither and thither in a marvellous display of acrobatics.

Up front Lujic and Simic, looking rather lonesome against the Olympic defensive wall, still managed to be

threatening in their occasional breakaways.

One of them finally paid off with 20 minutes to go, as Simic broke away to put his partner into the clear, with the stranded Olympic defenders appealing for an offside which never was.

Lujic did stumble about a bit, but finally managed to put the ball past Meier for the match-winning goal.

This agile twosome nearly managed to increase the lead

to 2-0 in the 85th minute, but with the home defence in tatters they failed to convert.

For the winners, Boland, as Simic broke away to put his partner into the clear, with the stranded Olympic defenders appealing for an offside which never was.

Tommy Docherty's men, on the other hand, were noteworthy mostly because of their shortcomings.

Mark Koussas was dropped but while out of favor at the moment, he is a noted goalscorer, who might have a place in

the Olympic scheme of things during the coming weeks.

Steve Paterson and Gary Phillips were the only Olympic men to rise above the very ordinary, in a match which never hit a level of excellence.

The Greek club will use the week off caused by the NSW v. Queensland match to lick its wounds — and try to regain form in a friendly against champions Sydney City Hakoh at Pratten Park on Sunday.



Peter Scott

KB kills 'prima donnas'

SM-Hellas 2 Newcastle 5

Goals: 0-1 Cowburn (N) 19th min; 0-2 Leo (N) 22nd; 1-2 Egan (SM) 38th; 1-3 Jones (N) 42nd; 2-3 Wooddin (SM) 50th; 2-4 Lowe (N) 79th; 2-5 Lowe (N) 85th.

Venue: Middle Park.
Crowd: about 3000.
Referee: Jim Fearn (Vic) 7.
Cautions: Brown, Crino (SM).

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Laumets 4 — Russell 4, Blair 4, Zvendorn 4 (inj. Buljevic, half time), Devos 4 (inj. taken off 47th) — Holford 8, Crino 7, Murphy 6 — Brown 7, Egan 6, Wooddin 6.

NEWCASTLE KB UNITED: Goalkeeping 7 — Malar 7, Burke 7, Watson 7, Trednick 8 — Leo



Laurie Schwab

8, Mason 9, Cowburn 8, Jones 9 — Mountford 8 (Senkalski 65th), Lowe 8.

Midfield maestro Craig Mason typified the control Newcastle had over this match. He was cool and precise, the master of every situation, unselfish to a fault: the personification of the tight team play that is Newcastle's great strength.

And there was David Jones, perpetual motion on the left flank — involved in the first goal, architect and scorer of the third, and originator of the fourth.

What a triumph for coach Ken Kaiser this season has been so far. Kaiser has the lowest profile among all the NSL coaches, and not much in the way of soccer achievement in his background. He's just been working away quietly since taken over from Ray Baartz and he's come up with the goods — a winning team that also offers plenty of entertainment. Make no mistake, Newcastle will stay up there with the leaders because Newcastle is one of the league's finest teams.

And he hasn't even given my usual rave about David Lowe. As far as I'm concerned, he's been the best striker in Australia since last year, he proved it beyond any doubt with the young Soccerbros and I can't wait to see him included in the senior national team.

Most of the Newcastle players beat their big-name Hellas opponents man-to-man, especially on the flanks — and fully exploited Hellas' brittle outside play.

Like lambs being led to the slaughter, Hellas defenders continually stormed forward, creating gaps through which Newcastle sliced like a surgeon's scalpel.

The fact that Hellas was down to 10 men for the entire second half was of course a hindrance to the home side, but by then it already trailed 1-3.

Sweeper John Zvendorn pulled a muscle early on and had to come off at half time, so when Alan Davidson was hurt two minutes after the interval, no other replacement could be made.

And with about 20 minutes to go, Oscar Crino, whose skills had sparked a recovery of sorts, also was injured, and did little more than hobble for the remainder of play.

Angry spectators staged a noisy demonstration against Hellas coach Rale Rasic and president Leo Anzakis after the match. "When are the players going to start playing for the spectators who pay them their big money?" one fan wanted to know.

It was Hellas' fourth loss in a row. The previous ones were against Brisbane City, Wollongong and St George.

Last year at the same time — after eight rounds — Hellas was in seventh position with 4 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses and a

goals tally of 16-10.

Now, after buying about \$70,000 worth of new players, Hellas is 12th, with 2 wins, 2 draws and 4 losses and with a goals tally of 11-14.

Hellas may improve on its recent results but early expectations of a championship title now appear to have been unrealistic.

In Hellas' defence, it was still well in the game after Crino and Wooddin had combined to make it 3-2, and perhaps Rasic was justified in claiming referee Jim Fearn should have awarded a penalty over a push on Branko Buljevic. But in the end, the Hellas defence collapsed totally, and even earlier, when the score was 2-0, Grant Lee would have scored again with an ounce of luck.

What an acquisition Lee has proved to be! He played for Australia in the 1981 World Youth Championships, he's one of the fastest players in Australia, and one wonders what possessed Sydney City to let him go rather than to put him in its own team.

I spoke with Rasic after the game in his office after he finally had emerged from the dressing rooms and made his way through a hostile mob.

"We were absolutely undisciplined," he said. "We were naive, but then the injuries didn't help, either. Zvendorn was injured in the fifth minute of the game, but he didn't tell me."

"We should have given a penalty when Buljevic was pushed in the area, and that would have made it 3-3. When Newcastle scored their third goal, the referee was still pushing back our defensive wall."

"But I can't take anything away from Newcastle. They were superbly disciplined and in David Lowe, they have a super talent. It's good unselfish players like he who should be bought, not prima donnas."

His "prima donnas" reference was not Rasic's first attack on the Hellas players. After the recent loss to Wollongong, he went as far as to say that Steve Blair, Alan Davidson and Bobby Russell shouldn't be in the national squad.

But accusations won't help Hellas now.

What is needed is for players and coach to sit down calmly, in a friendly manner and discuss all problems — whatever they may be — in total frankness, formulate a solution and get down to implementing it.

Meanwhile, let's look back at Newcastle's triumph.

It was Brett Cowburn, retaining his place in the team ahead of Joe Senkalski, who struck the first blow, a low hard shot from an unmarked position, after a cross from Jones.

Three minutes later it was Cowburn who played a through ball to tee for the second goal, broke away, leaving the Hellas defenders behind, and so it was 2-0 after 22 minutes.

It should have been 3-0 six minutes later. Cowburn was through into the clear, his shot went square across goal and Lee, chasing it in, put it just past the post after sliding onto it.

Charlie Egan scored from close range in the 38th minute, nipping in from behind Gary Watson who appeared to be trying to shepherd the ball to goalkeeper Clint Gosling, but Hellas' new-found hope was short-lived.

As the ball was played through the advancing Hellas defence, two Newcastle forwards were left offside, but the linesman did not raise his flag, and referee Jim Fearn waved play on as David Jones ran onto the ball through the middle, and headed for goal, with Oscar Crino in pursuit. Crino had no option but to commit a professional foul to stop Jones, so he brought him down from behind and was shown the yellow card. Jones took the free kick himself and blasted it into the top corner, over the defensive wall and past goalkeeper Peter Laumets who didn't even move!

Buljevic came on for Zven-



Grant Lee, Newcastle's star recruit from Sydney City, does battle with Alan Davidson.

down at half time, and Crino dropped back to the sweeper's position for the start of the half. It wasn't long however, before Crino was back in midfield.

Rasic said afterwards he had told his players that if Hellas was getting back into the match, Crino should push up again, leaving behind only Bobby Russell and Steve Blair to mark Lowe and Mountford.

As it turned out, however, Carl Holford ended up marking Lowe much of the time. Holford did just about everything

in this game — he attacked, he defended, he picked up men, he covered for team mates.

Davidson was hurt in a tackle by Burke just after half time and they tried in vain to treat his injury in the touchline before he finally had to be assisted off the ground, into the dressing rooms. He was taken to hospital later for X-rays of his ribs.

While this was happening, Egan intercepted a bad back pass and cut the ball inside, but Watson cleared off the goal line.

Crino was doing everything he possibly could to get Hellas back into the game. He took the free kick himself after being fouled on the edge of the area, but Gosling palmed the ball over the bar acrobatically.

Then Crino stormed forward again, using his brilliant skill to dodge past opponents before setting up Steve Wooddin for a low shot that made the score 2-3.

Kaiser, watching from the bench, could sense danger, so he sent Joe Senkalski and sacrificed Mountford who had been playing well, in order to tighten up the midfield.

Holford miskicked inside the area on a cut-back from Egan, just before Crino went down hurt and was effectively put out of the game.

Then came the final killer blows. With the Hellas defence drastically undermanned, it was now ripe for the picking. Jones broke down the left, unmarked, with Lowe running free in the middle. Jones played the square ball, Low sidestepped Laumets and belted it past a defender into the empty net to make the score 4-2.

Jones played another throughball to Lowe who again dribbled around Laumets and then Holford, but shot straight at Blair who was standing on the goal line.

But Lowe got yet another chance, this time courtesy of Blair, who played a bad back pass in the direction of Laumets. Lowe ran onto it. Laumets came out at him, and Lowe lobbed it past Laumets into the net.

McCulloch, Sermanni too good: Morton

Marconi 2 Heidelberg 0

Ground: Marconi Stadium
Crowd: 3371
Referee: Tim Davies 8
Yellow cards: Ian McKie, Dan McLeod (H), Tony Henderson (M)
Scorers: Bozanic 21' pen, Licata 65

MARCONI: James 8, Bozanic 8, Rizotto 8, Henderson 8, Degney 7, McCulloch 9, Sermanni 9, Carbone 7, Brown 6 (Rourke 48' — B), Jankovic 6, Licata 5.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 8, McKie 7, Spanos 8, Macloed 7, Yankos 7, Valentis 7 (Toro 75'), Solemidis 5, Vincent 6, Campbell 6, Lee 6, Patterson 5.

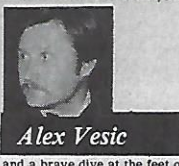
Marconi subdued Heidelberg at Marconi Stadium to peel off the bottom of the League and signal a major revival at Bossley Park. After hitting its lowest ebb in the history of the club (being second last), Marconi fired away. Footscray and Heidelberg to match six goals and win both games convincingly.

Its midfield got on top of Heidelberg's playmakers and created quite a few goalscoring opportunities in the process. Had Mark Jankovic been on the mark it would have been one hell of a disaster for the visitors. The Marconi star missed at least three opportunities when it looked more difficult to miss than score.

Jeff Oliver had something to do with it too, as he came off his line a couple of times to smother what looked certain goals. At the other end it was Bruce James who made an impact on play as well as some 3000 spectators. He plucked out Heidelberg crosses with ease and made two great saves to keep the visitors at bay.

It was at crucial times that the saves were made. It was after seven minutes of play that Derek Lee eluded Marconi's defence to send a low cross for Bob Vincent to crack one from some six metres. How on earth did James get to that ball?

With the score at 2-0 and Heidelberg coming forward, it was Lee again who burst through at the far post and some seven metres away from goal to face James. Two steps



Alex Vesic

and a brave dive at the feet of Lea stopped what looked a certain goal.

Marconi's first goal came after a fluid movement by the home side involving Sermanni, Brown and Carbone, with the latter having a shot at goal at the far post from some four metres. Ian McKie stopped the ball on the line and the referee, Tim Davies, pointed to the spot, indicating a handball by the Heidelberg player.

McKie was promptly booked for the indiscretion and Vic Bozanic did the rest, sending Oliver the wrong way to make it 1-0 from the penalty spot.

In the 65th minute Licata broke through on the left and with Jankovic in support and only Spanos to contend with, it took a certain goal. Licata drew Spanos before passing to Jankovic who hesitated, then pushed a weak shot past Oliver. Spanos came back on the left by then and cleared but in the ensuing melee Renato Licata found the net to make it 2-0.

For Marconi, Tom Sermanni and Tom McCulloch were superb, while Tony Henderson had a great game at the back. Rizotto and Bozanic were impressive while the forwards had an off day.

As for the visitors, Spanos and Oliver had strong games, with the rest having a hard time coming to terms with the conditions.

While Doug Collins was beginning with delight after the game it was time to see Ken Morton, the coach of much-fancied Heidelberg. His attitude was refreshing and pleasant. "Our midfield was beaten and our game fell away. It was as simple as that. McCulloch and Sermanni are very good players," said Ken Morton.

No excuses, no harping on "stupid referee" or "damn soccer calendar", just simply: "Thank you very much, boys, you deserved to win". That will do fine. Thank you Ken Morton!

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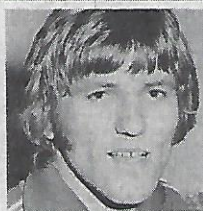
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Polonia, 1951, after a 7-1 victory over Geelong United, standing from left: Cebula, Zablocki, Bielek, Dziura, Terlikowski, Galecki, Chrzanowski, Kloczn. Front: Koszanski, Czuderna, Mazurek, Jakubowski.

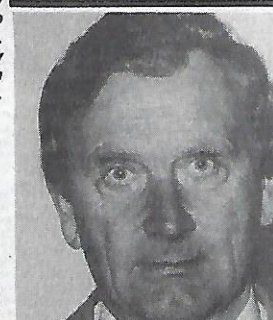


Dockerty Cup winners, 1961, from left standing: K. Trojanowski (vice-president), W. Gamel, C. Marks, W. Janczyk, Z. Marusiewicz, H. Dockerty (Victorian Soccer Federation president), R. Szczepanski, Dr. C. Walker (Polonia president), A. Grawonski (secretary), J. Duden, Z. Gross, R. Winiarski (official). Front: H. Dressler (official), M. Jurecki, R. Dronia, M. Gasior, H. Gronowski, R. Gronowski.



Polonia, from left, standing: John Pater (team manager), Stefan Mita, Janusz Przybyla, Ted Krysinski, Mirek Smolarek, Leszek Dzielakowski, Michael Lukac, Danny McCluskey, Greg Czarnik, Stan Klain, Mike Lynn (coach), Michal Zurek (president). Front: George Petrov, Alex Marshall, Ricky Lipiarski, Peter Czarnik, Andy Czarnik, John Vathis, Marian Jaworski. Left: Ron Horfinski. Missing: Brendan Lakic.

The leader

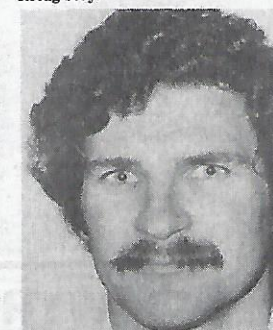


Mike Zurek

Polonia's executive committee consists of:

President Mike Zurek, managing director of MKZ Constructions; Vice-president Mark Zarzycki, solicitor, managing director of Odra Travel; Vice-president Mike manski; Secretary Chad Kozicki, solicitor; Treasurer Stan Slazyski, supply manager with Essendon City Council; Team manager John Pater, civil engineer, production manager for Potters Industries.

The general committee is a 20-member strong body.



Chad Kozicki

Glorious history

1950: Polonia's foundation meeting held at 95 Brighton Road, St Kila on August 13. The first committee, elected two weeks later, consisted of: J. Kwaliak, president; W. Kwiatkowski, secretary; F. Zielinski, team manager; B. Miewski, coach; M. Terlikowski, ground manager.

1951: Polonia moves to a new ground at Kooyong Park and hammers South Yarra 10-0. Two weeks later it's Frankston's turn. Polonia wins 8-3.

1954: Polonia joins First Division after just four years in existence.

1959: In June, Polonia's first Polish imports arrive. They are: Vic Janczyk and Marian Gasior of LKS Lodz, Richard Szczepanski from Polonia-Gdansk, Roch Dronia from Ruch Chorzow and Kaz Sygalski from Sparta-Chodakow.

1960: Polonia wins the State League championship and State League Cup.

1961: Polonia wins the State League Championship, Dockerty Cup and Laidlaw World Cup.

1963: Polonia wins the Ampol Cup and reaches the final of the Australia Cup only to lose 2-3 to Slavia. Inside forward Jana Jankowski is leading scorer in State League with 21 goals.

1964: Polonia won the Ampol Cup for the second successive year. It finished fourth in State League.

1967: Polonia finishes ninth in State League.

1968: A rejuvenated Polonia outfit, incorporating juniors from affiliated junior clubs North Sunshine and Ardeer, finishes second in State League behind powerful Croatia but ahead of Hellas, Hakoah and JUST.

In the 10 years from 1960 to 1970 Polonia's strength lay in attack. Mike Jurecki scored 57 goals in that period, Kaz Kowalec 35, Jurek Duden 23, Swoboda 17 and Norbert Gadjia 16.

The club's successes since 1970 have been winning the Armstrong Cup for reserve teams in 1973 and winning promotion back into State League in 1981 by claiming the Metropolitan League First Division championship.

Polonia finished fifth in State League last year, three points behind fourth placed Morwell Falcons. The quality of the team rarely was questioned. Consistency, or the lack of it, was Polonia's major problem however the team, under coach Kowalec, must be congratulated on establishing the club as a State League power again. Few changes in playing staff have eventuated this year under new coach Mike Lynn.

Stopper Danny McCluskey, young midfielder George Petrov and goalkeeper Michael Lukac have joined from Kew City. Goalkeeper Larry Ostrowsky is set to join State League rival Northcote, so the basis of this year's outfit is the same as the side which carried the club's banner throughout the 1982 season.

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POLONIA



We can win league title says Lynn

"The minimum prerequisite for me to say that I've had success this year would be for Polonia to finish in the top four. But I seriously believe that we can go even better and win the title. We've got the ability and with the usual dose of luck and an injury free run I know that we can do it."

That's Mike Lynn's view of Polonia, the first State League club he's coached.

Lynn's thoughtful, articulate and usually candid, qualities often lost or hidden in conversations between coaches and journalists. Then again, Lynn's learning the ropes. The relationship between the soccer press and club officials, coaches and players is currently one of his favorite topics.

"I've come to appreciate the incestuous nature of our soccer scene. Everyone knows what everyone else is doing and everyone feeds off each other," said Lynn.

One of the most negative aspects of the game here is the quality of people we lose. Take Fred Bunce for example. He's still coaching at Ferntree Gully in Fourth Division, but he's been lost to the higher levels of the game, where he belongs. He's a friend of mine and I suppose that he won't mind me saying that he dropped out. He's too nice to put up with the politics, the back-stabbing, with being told what to do and who to pick. He's got too much integrity for that sort of stuff but it's a pity that he's dropped out because the game really needs people like him.

The positive aspects of the game are the quality of some of the players and coaches. I don't think we really appreciate the quality of some of our players. As for coaching, you can't go past Len McKendry or John Gardiner. And Bill Murray too. There's a guy who has worked wonders with Box Hill and doesn't get the praise he deserves."

Lynn had two interviews last year before the Polish sponsored club appointed him. His first impression of the committee was that it wanted someone to get the best out of its Polish imports while at the same time taking a major departure from tradition and hiring a non-Polish coach, aims which seemed to be at odds with each other.

"I felt that the committee was a bit wary about me because I was the first non-Polish coach in the club's history. I have had to face up to genuine language barriers with some of the players and my training is a vast departure from what Polonia players had been used to."

"It's fair to say that in the past training wasn't really hard. However, my training is hard, both physically and mentally. If you want to coach, say midfielders, to get back behind the ball then close down a particular space, you don't do it simply by telling them. You do it out on the training track and you do it over and over again."

Lynn's main immediate task is to successfully blend the Polish, Australian and British attitudes of his squad. He has a high opinion of his players' ability but let's get a bit deeper into the coach's mind and look at Lynn's assessment of some of his players:

STEFAN MILA: "The most complete footballer in my squad. He looks and acts the part too. He can play the ball long with great accuracy, assets when he's under pressure or when he spots an opening and has to play the ball early. He's an enormous tackler, in fact we have to watch out for him even at training! Perhaps the flaw in his game is that he's not a great player watcher but he gets away with that at sweeper where he fills in spaces rather than man marks."

DANNY MCKUSKEY: "The most pleasing signing I've made this year to date. People may not be aware of just how skilful he is.

They're certainly not aware of his pace. He's so good in the air that I rate him as the best defensive header of a ball in Victoria. His personality is magic in the dressing room. The first night he came to training he walked up to the Polish players, shook their hands, then wished them 'cheers' in Russian! Everyone collapsed around the place in laughter. He's been liked ever since."

MIREK SMOLAREK: "The unsung Pole of the side. In fact, he's the most accomplished left back in the country, having played for 15 years as a professional in Poland. Like all the Polish players, I'm amazed at the majestically fluent fashion in which he strikes the ball."

RICK LIPIARSKI: "One of the most dedicated players I've come across. And easy to coach. A great listener. Always prepared to learn."

ANDREW CZAPNIK: "I switched him into midfield, even though he played centre half last year and is the best marker in the team. He's a great athlete and his attitude is first class, that's why, at 34, he still can play so well."

PETER CZAPNIK: "The enigma of the team. Highly temperamental yet tremendously gifted. You have to take your time with Peter, to work him around to your way of thinking. Judging by his recent performances he's settled down and ready to show everyone just how fine a player he is."

GEORGE PETROV: "I can't speak highly enough of young George, who I signed from Kew this year. He's just turned 18 and I haven't seen a better, more fearless tackler for his age. I'm still trying to work out why he's not in the Victorian youth squad."

BRENDAN LAKIC: "I use him more as a midfielder, playing inbetween Petrov, the Czapsniks and Marshall and Przybyla but I use him wide on either flank. He's got boundless energy and one of characters of the squad."

ALEX MARSHALL: "I considered early on that he was uncoachable! I've had to work so hard on Alex but we're getting there. I've worked on getting him to play through the middle rather than going out wide and also to cut out the ridiculous little flicks that he liked to do. It just takes time to change him. He's probably never been coached before which is half of his problems. For his size his skill is uncanny. He can do anything. When he turns it on he's one of these players you'd gladly pay good money for the privilege of watching."

JANUSZ PRZYBYLA: "Another enigma. Excellent positional sense but very temperamental, which is strange for such an experienced player. He favors his left foot but he's got outstanding shooting ability."

Lynn believes that he's understaffed, especially up front. Ron Horfinkak, young Greg Czapsnik, John Vathis and Stan Klein give Polonia defensive depth but should Marshall of Przybyla get injured then Lynn striking options are severely limited. Nevertheless, Lynn remains optimistic.

"I keep telling people that we can do it. We can win the championship."

"I'll stay with Polonia for as long as I feel that I'm contributing to the development of the team, I get a great kick out of organising individuals into successful groups and I enjoy the relationship I have with my players."

— CRAIG MACKENZIE



Mike Lynn in action for Ken Park Rangers last season.

Polonia coach Mike Lynn played with English club Wolverhampton Wanderers from 1966 to 1968. He played in the Yorkshire and Northern Premier Leagues before joining Ringwood Wiltshire in 1970.

Lynn joined Croydon in 1977 and his first senior coaching appointment was with Fawkner, during the 1980 and 1981 seasons. Under Lynn, Fawkner won promotion from Metro Third Division, won the Second Division championship and the 1980 Coppa Italia. He left Fawkner before the first league game of the 1982 season and joined Kew City as a player.

He was appointed coach of Polonia late last year. He majored in psychology at Melbourne University and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972. In 1976, under then Victorian Director of Coaching, Ron Smith, Lynn gained his senior coaching badge.

Pater turned his back on the VFL

When John Peter was playing VFL football with Carlton under-19s and reserves the farthest thought from his mind was taking over as team manager of Polonia.

Pater, 30, a qualified civil engineer, left Carlton as an 18 year old and joined Fawkner, then in the Provisional Leagues.

"I believed that I could have made it in the VFL but I wanted to try and make a name for myself in soccer," said Pater.

The tall, versatile athlete captained Fawkner's first team for three years of the seven years he spent with the Italian sponsored club, and also won the club's best and fairest award one season. But when John Bressan became Fawkner's coach, Pater was dropped so he decided to move to Polonia because of "the



John Pater
Polish connection". Pater's parents are Pole.

Pater played with Polonia's first team in the First Division of the Metropolitan Leagues in 1977 and won the best player award run by "Tigodnik", the local Polish weekly newspaper.

The following year, 1978, Pater, a defender, was dropped to the reserves after

The sub-committee consists of Wally Klein, John and George Pater, Eric Rybar and Lyn Young and its charter concerns the feasibility of Polonia joining the proposed southern region of the national league, with the ultimate aim of making Polonia the number one club in the entire Asia-Oceania region by 1986.

TV exposure is vital to

Polonia realising its goals. The impact of sponsors' messages, through TV, is the key-note to gaining major sponsorship deals.

Contrary to the common belief that 'soccer and Australian Rules constantly are at loggerheads, Polonia has received great help in its marketing plans, from Fitzroy Football Club, Fitzroy's marketing manager, Jenny Paul, has suggested marketing guidelines for Polonia's sub-committee is gathering a wealth of information on marketing techniques and is confident of successfully "selling" the club.

The broadening of the club's support base can be achieved through the efforts of the newly formed social committee. This body, formed two months ago, plans a major departure from traditional social activities. It already has planned fashion parades, river cruises, mystery train rides, car rallies, picnics, casino nights and cocktail parties.

Apart from the obvious fund raising aim of the social committee it also intends to improve family involvement in club activities.

The marketing and social committees are staffed by first generation Australians. This young brigade has the enthusiasm and the know-how to make Polonia great.

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Juventus opens up title race

By ROCKY D'ZIO

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| | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| CROATIA | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 3 | 11 |
| AJAX | 4 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 11 |
| JUVENTUS | 5 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 11 |
| POLONIA | 5 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 11 |
| Croydon | 4 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| Fawkner | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| Box Hill | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Northcote | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| Morwell | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 7 |
| Doveton | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 6 |
| Sun G. Cross | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 3 |
| Wilhelmina | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 3 |
| Albion | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 2 |
| S.M. Hellas | 0 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 |

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Antolovic 76th) JUVENTUS 2 (Incantalupo 47th, Zinni 57th) at Olympic Park No. 1, Sunday.

CROATIA: Blasby 6 — Curcio 6, Adams 7, Parton 6, Hannah 5 — Blakie 7, Faulkner 6, Antolovic 7, Gojovic 7 (Brogan 65th) — Latif 6 (Dankovic 85th), Cunningham 7. **Coach:** John Gardiner.

JUVENTUS: Clayton 7 — V. Bannan 8, P. Bannan 8, P. Drinockay 8, Hird 7 — G. Bannan 8, Rogers 7, Swinscoe 7, Zinni 7 (Nelson 80th) — French 6, Incantalupo 8. **Coach:** John Margaritis.

Juventus came back from despair, after the unexpected loss to Polonia, and reinforced the tradition that sees it at its best against top competition, especially Croatia.

by winning the crucial match of the round.

The black and whites' victory has made the State League championship race a real cliff-hanger. Four teams are now sharing top spot in the competition on 11 points, with two of them, Juventus and Green Gully, holding top billing for next round.

Pat Bannan stuck to his sweeper's role with all his competence and organised his defence with the precision of a regimental sergeant-major on a parade ground; brother Vince was impassable on the right and doggedly blocked and cleared the best the opposition

could throw at him; "baby brother" Ged was breaking up opposition moves in midfield, coming back to lend his brothers a hand or pushing upfield like the warhorse he is. Paul Drinockay fitted brilliantly into this Bannan family affair providing the aerial superiority and the rock-like solidity to take the brunt of the attacks in the middle. On the left Harry Hird put in a useful game and Gary Clayton in goal confirmed his resurgence.

These men resisted a tremendous barrage that can best be measured against the number of corner kicks, 16 to one in favor of Croatia.

And the game was far from one way traffic, thanks to the seemingly ubiquitous nature of Juventus midfielders Ged Bannan, Kevin Swinscoe and Billy Rogers who covered the full length of the field and set up attacking moves for the striking trio of Incantalupo,

Graham French and Zinni all day.

In the 16th minute Zinni sent a lobbing cross from the right and found Incantalupo unmarked, but the youth international tried a long header instead of chesting down to his deadly left foot and Blasby made the easiest of saves. In the 31st minute Rogers served Incantalupo on the left but "Fabulous Fab" shot wide under pressure from Tony Curcio. In the 40th minute again Incantalupo shot wide from a Roger's pass. At the other end Croatia could only provide sterile pressure.

Incantalupo finally broke the stalemate in the 47th minute after Rogers had sent away French in the middle. A long run straight at goal by French ended with a pass on the left to Incantalupo who made a few steps with the ball then sent it sizzling diagonally

past Blasby and into the far corner of goal.

Ten minutes later Juve should have scored again when Rogers set up Incantalupo on the left, but this time the youngster was under pressure and had to go deeper before shooting for goal. French and Zinni burst into the middle and both just missed the ball that went wide, shaving the foot of the upright. But two minutes later Zinni finally headed in the second goal for Juventus after French served Incantalupo who lifted the ball into the middle of the box for Zinni.

Croatia continued to collect corner kicks at the other end, without ever being given the chance of a clear shot at goal. In the 76th minute Antolovic netted with a low header from a Biskie corner. The goal gave Croatia new fire to storm the weary Juventus defence in the closing stages of the game but only managed to render it groggy without being able to knock it down.

Ajax to triumph

Juventus will be out to perform its second successive giant killing act when it runs into defending State League champion Green Gully Ajax at Olympic Park No. 2 on Sunday at 3 pm.

Spurred on by youngsters Fabio Incantalupo and the exciting Andrew Zinni, the black and whites must fancy their chances but I'm tipping Ajax to win.

Under coach Len McKendry, Ajax has gone 16 consecutive games without defeat and should keep its record intact on Sunday. Key men in the Ajax line-up, strikers Bobby Toal and Paul Lewis, could be too quick for the Juventus defence, marshalled by Pat Bannan and feasting tall stopper Paul Drinockay.

Croydon and Polonia clash

at Croydon Park on Sunday in a match crucial to the top four aspirations of both outfits. Croydon will be keen to bounce back after last weekend's reversal against Doveton but I'm going to stick my neck out and tip the Polish sponsored club to triumph.

Albion Rovers can win their first game of the State League season when they clash with South Melbourne Hellas at Selwyn Park on Saturday. Rovers have played just over 60 minutes of league football without scoring but I'm betting that they'll break their

Victorian State League with CRAIG MACKENZIE



drought against the young Hellas outfit.

Morwell Falcons must get back into the winner's circle when they host struggling Ringwood Wilhelmina at North Crinigan Reserve on Saturday. That's if Falcons are to have any chance of snatching a top four berth. Falcons will win.

Despite signs that Sunshine George Cross is running back into form I can't see the combine beating Melbourne Croatia at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday. The much vaunted Tommy Cumming-Ossie Latif striking partnership can get back onto the goal trail here.

State League newcomers Fawkner and Box Hill are proving welcome additions to the competition despite poor showings during the pre-season Buffalo Cup. Fawkner however, will find Doveton a handful at Jukes Road on

Sunday and may have to settle for a point. Box Hill clashes with Northcote at Wembley Park, also on Sunday, and should record its fourth league success.

This weekend's games with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY
ALBION ROVERS v South Melbourne Hellas at Selwyn Park, 2.45 pm.
MORWELL FALCONS v Ringwood Wilhelmina at North Crinigan Reserve, 2.45 pm.

SUNDAY
JUVENTUS v **GREEN GULLY** Ajax at Olympic Park No. 2, 3 pm.
Sunshine-George Cross v Croatia at Chaplin Reserve, 3 pm.
Croydon v **POLONIA** at Croydon Park, 3 pm.
Fawkner v **Doveton** (draw) at Jukes Road, 3 pm.
BOX HILL v Northcote at Wembley Park, 3 pm.

Penalty swings pendulum Ajax's way

GREEN GULLY AJAX 2 (Smallman 13th, 77th, Toal 89th) MORWELL FALCONS 0 at Green Gully Reserve, Sunday.

AJAX: Denys 6 — Peter Lewis 7, Short 6, Cannell 7, Hagan 7 — Greechan 6, Williams 6, Boyle 7, Vassallo 6 — Toal (in), Mandrell 90th, Smallman 6. **Coach:** Len McKendry.

MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 7 — Darby 6, Irvine (in), Plummer 24th 7, Inl. Loughy 67th, Higham 7, Train 6 — Bingham 5, McGuinness 5, MacLennan 7, O'Callaghan 8 — Evans 7, Mitten 7. **Coach:** Tony Boggi.

Paul Lewis, listed on the Ajax team sheet, didn't take his place in the side due to food poisoning in a match which really came to life the minute the second half kicked off for Ajax leading 1-0.

For the next 30 minutes Morwell Falcons outperformed Ajax. The Falcons went one-on-one at the back and in a ferocious half hour period in which even some spectators shuddered at the intensity of the battle, it somehow seemed inevitable that a penalty decision would break the precarious balance of the clash.

The pendulum swung Ajax's way in the 77th minute. Bobby

Toal got free on the right, crossed to Willie Vassallo who was felled by John Higham and referee Sam Zoumas pointed to the penalty spot. David Smallman took the kick and sent the ball under the right arm of Bill Whiteside.

Ajax had opened its account in the 13th minute. Brian Darby lost the ball in the middle of the park. Toal broke clear, beat Sandy Irvine, cut inside and shot. The ball was blocked by John O'Callaghan and fell to Smallman. His quick kick appeared to be covered by Whiteside until the ball deflected off Irvine's shoulder and went in at the far corner.

Ajax's poor finishing for the next 30 minutes could have proved costly had fate decreed that Morwell was to get the breakthrough in the second half.

A train cross in the 68th minute found Alan Evans who pulled the ball down then shot

By **MICK O'BRIEN**

wide of the far post. This was Falcons' best chance during the hectic 30 minute period after half time.

In the 88th minute, Higham missed with his tackle, Toal got clear, rounded Whiteside and shot from an acute angle. Train, desperately trying to recover, got a foot to the ball but couldn't stop it trickling over the line.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 0 BOX HILL 2 (Verachia 20th, Keenan 60th) at Jubilee Park, Sunday.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Janssen 6 — Pasmun 6, Brooks 6, Pona 5, Verachia 6 — Tattersall 4 (Tom 60th), Frost 6, Burton 6 — Whyte 6 (Cassidy 65th), Cook 6, Stewart 5. **Coach:** Mike de Bruyn.

BOX HILL: McKislay 7 — I. Roadhouse 8, Brownlie 6, Lawler 6, A. Roadhouse 8 — Hughes 8, Miranda 7, Ramos (in), Taylor 6th 5 — Azopardi 7, Verachia 6, Keenan 7,

The Latrobe Valley club must be careful not to panic in the light of its recent results.

Morwell has played Polonia and Ajax away from home and Croatia at home. The net result of these clashes has been three defeats totalling eight goals against and none for. It must be remembered though, that you don't face that calibre of opposition every week. Morwell still is a very competent State League outfit.

Priestley in goal spree

Striker Paul Priestley scored five goals in his comeback game after injury as Box Hill reserves won 6-1.

Box Hill's opening goal in the seniors, came in the 20th minute and started when Andy Hughes won possession and passed to Peter Verachia. He cleverly switched play to the right and Brian Keenan took the ball almost to the byline before crossing to the incoming Verachia to finish off the move with a firm header past Rick Janssen.

Ray Taylor took a corner kick poorly in the 60th minute but the attempted Wilhelmina clearance came back to Taylor whose second try, driven across the goal, came off a defender and fell for Keenan whose hard, low drive sent the ball into the bottom left hand corner of goal from about 15 metres out.

Jim Kondarios — Fawkner's new signing from J.U.S.T.

IN BRIEF

The "Juventini Club", Juventus' very successful youth club organises a disco night for this Saturday, May 7 at the "Cockpit", in the old Essendon Airport terminal. Abbey Road and a top DJ will be the attractions. Bookings advisable (Joe Mirabella, 380 9614 day, Patricia Train, 388 7080 evenings), but not essential. Admission \$9.

Fawkner-Azzurri is looking for players for its under 16 team. Those interested should ring 489 3773 or attend training at Jukes Road from 5.30 pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Defending cup holder CBC St Kilda advanced into the semi-final of the 1983 South Melbourne Hellas Schoolboys Cup by defeating Thornbury High 5-2 last week.

The quarter final results were: Thornbury High 2 CBC St Kilda 3; Murrumbidgee High 1; Springvale High 8 Kew High 4 after extra time.

The draw for today's (Wednesday) semi-finals: Huntingdale High v. Heidelberg High; Springvale High v. CBC St Kilda.

The cup final will be held in early June and will be played at the curtain raiser to one of Hellas's NSL matches.

Brighton needs juniors for its under-11, under-12 and under-13 teams.

Lads interested can contact under-11 coach Graham Bannan on 583 3853; under-12 coach John McGuinness on 547 3212 and under-13 coach Stewart MacLennan on 772 5287.

Costello carried off

NORTHCOTE 0 ALBION ROVERS 0 at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCOTE: Giannopoulos 7 — Cutler 5, Creamy 8, Bealish 7, Gorman 7 — Wilson 7 (in), Pavlidis 83rd, Moore 6, Culina 7 — Schindler 7, Tactos 6 (Quigley H.T. 6), Constantinos 5. **Coach:** Tony Vrieland.

ALBION ROVERS: Costello 8 (in), Cypri 65th — Gales 7, Hennessey 7, Macleod 9, Douglas 8 — Farrie 6, Reilly 6, Gray 6, Smart 7, D'Sylva 5, K. Coyle 5 (Dickson 65th). **Coach:** Hugh Murney.

Eddie Gray makes his debut for Albion, goalie Tom Costello carried off after a dash with John Creamy in the second half, goalie Larry Ostrowsky joins Northcote from Polonia for \$1,300 and young striker Arthur Patinois stakes his claim for a berth in Northcote's first team.

These were the major stories to emerge from a disappointing clash between Northcote and Albion at John Cain Reserve.

Coyle and Mick D'Sylva were the culprits as Albion's amazing goal drought (it hasn't scored in the league this season) continues to plague the Selwyn Park outfit. Coyle got clear in the first half

only to shoot straight at Northcote goalie John Giannopoulos. D'Sylva also broke clear but shot over. Coyle's glaring second half miss prompted coach Hugh Murney to replace him with Peter Dickson. Giannopoulos couldn't handle a fierce Gray shot but the incoming Coyle could have lifted the ball into the young keeper's body.

However, Albion could have lost the match in the final minute. Frank Macleod, the best player on the park, fouled Branko Culina just outside the Albion area. Steve Moore, having a disappointing game, curled the free kick superbly around the Albion defensive wall and into goal but his team mate Jim Sahinidis had made a run in behind the Albion wall and was ruled offside with the ball lying in the back of the Albion net.

Earlier in the second half Peter Constantinou, set up by excellent work out wide on the right from Sahinidis, blasted the ball over the bar from just three metres out.

LYNN PRAISES COMBINE

POLONIA 3 (Marshall 77th, 86th, Przybyla 20th) SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 1 (McCluskey o.g. 64th) at Raleigh Reserve, Sunday.

POLONIA: Dzielakowski 8 — Lipinski 8, Mile 8, McCluskey 3, Smolinski 7 — Jaworski 8 (Przybyla 86th), A. Czapiak 7, Petrov 6, P. Czapiak 8 — Marshall 6, Przybyla 20th.

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS: Contini 8 — G. Barnett 6, Richardson 5, Scott 6, McKeirley 6 — Stevenson 6, Peter 7, Campbell 7 (Bain 56th), Taylor 7 — McGorian 6, Gilder 8. **Coach:** Tommy Traynor.

Despite the scoreline Sunshine-George Cross may have finally turned the corner and could be running into form at long last. That's the opinion shared by combine president Alf Zahra and Polonia coach Mike Lynn.

"Sunshine-George Cross pressured us for long periods. They're not as bad a side as some people make out. They'll come good soon, I'm sure," said Lynn.

Despite the combine's pressure it found Polonia stopper Danny McCluskey in commanding style, backed up by the ever cool Stefan Mile.

Things weren't kept so tight at the other end of the park. A long ball from Andy Czapiak to Janusz Przybyla in the 20th minute caught out Richardson. As combine goalie Alan Contini charged out of goal Przybyla expertly lobbed the ball over him into goal to make it 1-0.

The combine levelled about 20 minutes into the second half. The Polonia defence repelled a combine corner but the resultant throw-in ended with Chris Taylor in possession inside the Polonia area. Taylor's shot struck McCluskey's knee, deflecting the ball past stranded Leszek Dzielakowski.

Big Polonia striker Alex Marshall decided to take matters into his own hands. Tad Krynski had come on in place of Marian Jaworski and sent a great pass to Przybyla who knocked the ball into Marshall's path and the gigantic striker smashed an unstoppable shot from 12 metres past Contini.

A piece of Peter Czapiak magic set up Marshall for Polonia's third goal late in the game. Peter Czapiak gained possession inside his defensive half, played a one-two with brother Andy then beat his opponents en route for the combine goal. From near the edge of the combine area Czapiak let fly, Contini parried the ball wide, Czapiak followed up and sent the ball back to the edge of the area where the incoming Marshall struck a hard, low shot sending the ball into the bottom corner to make it 3-1.

South Melbourne Hellas v Fawkner: 3 Bekiaris (SMH), 2 Kalfitidis (SMH), 1 Cozzella (F).

Progressive votes: 11 — Tuffield (Fawkner) 10 — Moore (Northcote), Kalfitidis (SMH).

8 — Denys (Ajax), Mile (Polonia), Macleod (Albion).

Leading scorers: 6 — Cumming, Latif (Croatia) 4 — Smallman (Ajax), Wade (Croydon), McGuinness (Morwell), Marshall, Przybyla (Polonia), Gilder (SGC), Staworski (Wilhelmina).

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Ametco player awards

Ametco Travel is sponsoring our two major State League awards for Player of the Year and Top Scorer in 1983.

Our Player of the Year wins a return trip to Europe, flying Thai International. Our Top Scorer wins a return trip to Singapore, also flying Thai International.

Voting for our Player of the Year award is on the 3-2-1 basis for each State League match. In the event of a tie, the player scoring most three votes will be declared the winner. This week's votes:

Ajax v Falcons: 3 Short (A), 2 Bingham (F), 1 Train (F).
Wilhelmina v Box Hill: 3 Taylor (BH), 2 Hughes (BH), 1. Roadhouse (BH).

Polonia v Sun G. Cross: 3 McCluskey (P), 2 Gilder (SGC), 1 P. Czapiak (P).
Northcote v Albion: 3 Macleod (A), 2 Creamy (N), 1 Reilly (A).

Croatia v Juventus: 3 V. Bannan (J), 2 Incantalupo (J), 1 Drinockay (J).
Doveton v Croydon: 3 Keogh (D), 2 Wade (C), 1 Merrick (N).

Ajax v Falcons: 3 Short (A), 2 Bingham (F), 1 Train (F).
Wilhelmina v Box Hill: 3 Taylor (BH), 2 Hughes (BH), 1. Roadhouse (BH).

Polonia v Sun G. Cross: 3 McCluskey (P), 2 Gilder (SGC), 1 P. Czapiak (P).
Northcote v Albion: 3 Macleod (A), 2 Creamy (N), 1 Reilly (A).

Croatia v Juventus: 3 V. Bannan (J), 2 Incantalupo (J), 1 Drinockay (J).
Doveton v Croydon: 3 Keogh (D), 2 Wade (C), 1 Merrick (N).

WHAT A GOAL: A couple of weeks ago Polonia beat Morwell Falcons 2-0. The second goal was scored by Polonia's new centre-half Danjos Melchior.

Met Danjos in the Castle about 6 O'Clock and I asked him what his goal was like. "Och! nothing spectacular, I came forward for a free-kick, one of Morwell's defenders came with me to cover, then for some odd reason he stopped and I found myself in the box on my own. The ball came over and I nodded in from about eight yards," he said, well folks, sounds quite simple doesn't it?

Now listen to the later version, after about 15 Periods and Clayton's life was undecided whether to have a drink or not. One of the lads asked him what his goal was like. "A Cracker! I sprinted forward for a free-kick, left my marker stranded, and as I was about to pick up the free-kick I was pasted by three or four of them then I flicked it up and it went in. I past their keeper Wae Ma Hold!"

TIMBER: In the same game when Reserve Alex Marshall was tripped up fell over and hit his head on the bar at Selwyn Park.

FOOT AND MOUTH (Part Three): Remember Liam (I'm bleated out like a hooster) Houston? Well, I told you in the last instalment he was on his way to Australia. Beep-Beep decided to see a bit of the world first so his first stop was Canada.

While there he thought he would try his hand as a lumber-jack so he went to a lumber-camp (that's a place full of wooden tents), and asked the boss if he was looking for any lumber-jacks. The boss asked Liam if he had any experience as a lumber jack. "Bags of it!" was our hero's reply. "Where's the last place you worked as a lumber jack?" Asked the boss.

"The Sahara!" was Liam's answer. "That's a bloody

THE CLASH: Lyndale Utd are starting to gear up for their big game. They have dived right into the transfer market and come up with a fast-rising winger who will give opposing defences no trouble whatsoever. A player who will move to any position the coach asks him and he will play just as badly there.

Who is this guy? It's that master of the touchline, that wizard of the wing, that dynamo of the shovell game (because it fits snugly between his short legs). This man played in the same youth team as Captain Cook. His name is HAM-ILTON MCKEECHAN.

NEW SIGNING: John Pryde has been signed by Heidelberg-Bundoora. J.P. has a special clause in his contract. He only plays on grounds situated near Caulfield, Moonee

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Bakiaris 75th) FAWKNER-AZZURRI 2 (Cazzella 17th and 70th) at Middle Park, Saturday.

HELLAS: Perce 6 - Anzalone 6 (Bosch 74th), Kakoulidis 7, Kallitidis 7, Abram 7 - Kanasoulis 7, Buzinovski 6, van Egmond 6 - (Kaiser 7, half time) Belletti 6, Head 6, Kalamitaki 6, Coach: Jim Armstrong.

FAWKNER: Terzini 1 - Sabadini 6, Koudas 6, Koudas 6, Sotgiu 6 - Palmericciotti 5 (Cuzzella 6, half time), C. Sabadini 5 (Anzalone 6th), Roskies 6 - Palnikas 3, Tufeld 6, Cuzzella 7, Coach: Doug Kirkovic.

Joe runs around in circles

prove - it will have to once it confronts the league's top team.

Kondarios should contribute to that improvement, as will Tiziano Cavallari who joins this week from Juventus. He probably will play in midfield.

This match was marred by a poor refereeing display by Mike Gaut. Quite rightly he showed Hellas goalkeeper Mark Perce the yellow card when he came outside the box to handle a lob from Carlo Sabidussi. But when Perce did the same thing a few minutes later - this time to stop Ian Tuffield - Gaut turned a blind eye instead of sending Perce off for a second time.

Earlier, Gaut had ignored a

McIVOR UP FOR TRANSFER

DOVETON 3 (Dowie 18th, Buchanan 39th, Webster 73rd) CROYDON 1 (Nolan penalty 78th) at Waratah Reserve, Sunday.

DOVETON: Keogh 8 - Bradbin 8 (ins. Bartlett 85th), Marwick 8, Thurlow 7, Miller 7 - Waterhouse 6 (Murray 75th), Dowie 7, Buchanan 7 - Webster 7, Stirton 7, M. Lennon 8. Coach: Ernie Merrick.

CROYDON: Kastner 7 - Singleton 7, McCombe 8, Dobson 8 (Rainey 65th), Hobson 8 - Brown 6, Rooney 6 (P. Loughnane 75th), Wade 6, Nolan 6, Irvine 6, Sweeney 7. Caretaker coach: Jim Rooney.

Doveton transfer listed midfielder Mike McIvor on weekend. McIvor joined Doveton in 1981 from national league club Footscray JUST and the Doves have placed a \$3,000 negotiable transfer fee on his head.

Despite McIvor's absence on Sunday the Doves caused a minor upset by downing more fancied rival Croydon 3-1 at Waratah Reserve. It was Doveton of old on Sunday. The players came out revved up for this battle and their commitment and endeavour, sadly missing from most of the season, was a major factor in this victory.

The folly of Foley

An oversight by Bulova's officials cost Oxford United striker Peter Foley a wasted 16,000 mile air trip. He flew to the Colony recently to join Bulova on a three-months loan period on a Republic of Ireland passport. But he was sent on a plane back to England. Officials had not checked he was born in England and needed either a work permit or British passport before he could play or work. Foley has since jetted back to Hong Kong.

Boniek to Bayern?

Polish World Cup star Zbigniew Boniek is reported to be unsettled in Italy with Juventus and both he and his wife have a hankering for home. Bayern Munich are reported to be interested should Boniek decide to leave Italy.

Dandenong robbed, Ristovski strikes

Metropolitan Division One
City has protested officially against its 2-1 defeat by Ardeer on Saturday.

Dandenong City is asking the VSF to charge the referee of the match with bringing the game into disrepute. If the VSF takes such action it would be a first for Victorian soccer. It seems likely that Dandenong City, even if it wins its case and has the result reversed will be unable to get the federation to charge the referee in question.

The Dandenong club is in the wars in more ways than one. For the fourth time this year its clubrooms have been broken into. The most recent break-in took place last Friday night and thousands of dollars worth of electrical equipment was stolen. Any club which can help out Dandenong City should contact the clubrooms on 785 9364, on either Tuesday or Thursday night.

Former Footscray J.U.S.T. winger Mendo Ristovski, finally making his debut for First Division club Altona Gate after having a hitch with getting his clearance ratified through the NSL, scored in his side's 2-0 defeat of Altona City at Kim Reserve on Sunday.

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE
NEW CITY 0 BELL PARK 1 (Bond 52nd) at Stradbroke Park, Saturday

NEW CITY: Green 8 - Thompson 8, G. Train 8, Smale 8, Lyness 6 - Parsons (ins.) Paulson 17th, 71st, McElhinney 7, Houston 6, Keenan 6 - Droughe 6, Campbell 7. Coach: Terry Hargreaves.

Bell Park did to Kew what Kew did to Pines a few weeks earlier. Here it was the home side which was hit on the break, against the run of play, and suffered by conceding not only the sole goal of the game but also the first goal Kew conceded in 480 consecutive minutes of Metro League football.

In the 52nd minute ex-Kew's Phillip Palauoso, ex-Northcote, signed last Thursday for \$500, lost possession in midfield. The ball was knocked forward quickly to John Bond with Kew caught trying to spring the offside trap. Bond raced clear and deflected the ball into goal past the advancing Jim Green for the winner.

Kew has signed ex-Hakoah defender or midfielder Bernie Parkin, for \$400 from Heidelberg-Bundoora.

DIVISION TWO
NORTH DANDENONG 4 (Collier 15th, Magnano 72nd, 77th, Morgan 83rd) WAVERLEY CITY 2 (Whitehurst penalties 50th, 60th) at North's ground.

WAVERLEY: Trainee 6, Coulter (injured 5th minute) sub Martin G. 6, Reidmond 6, Mierme 6, Whetnall 6, Lau 6, Wilson (sent off 40th) 3, Cooper 7, Grimwade 6, Nicholson 5, Whitehurst 5.

NORTH DANDENONG: Mackie 8, Popadopolous 8, Costas 8, McMillan 8, Walworth 7, Byrne 7, Nelson, Taylor 7, Magnano 8, Collier 8, Morgan 8.

North got off to a dream start after 15 minutes when Collier latched on to a defen-

SELECTIONS

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE
Saturday: ALTONA GATE v Moorwell; BELL PARK v Altona City; FRANKSTON PINES v West-bee.
Sunday: Western Suburbs v Richmond (draw); Broadmeadows v New City (draw); KNOX CITY v Dandenong.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: NUNAWADING CITY v Nth. Dandenong; St Albans v Springvale City; WAVERLEY CITY v Ardeer; THOMASTOWN v Melbourne; RINGWOOD Utd v Keller Austria; Dandenong City v FOOTSCRAY JUST; HEIDELBERG-BUNDOORA v Slavia.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: ST. MEL'S MURDOCH v Port Melbourne; SUNBURY v Eltham; CAULFIELD CITY v Moorabbin; Colong v PRAHRAN CITY; SOUTH DANDENONG v Heidelberg-Bundoora; Brighton v Tullaroons (draw); Sunday: Royal Richmond v Sandringham (draw).

DIVISION FOUR
Saturday: MORRISDALE v Fawcett Gully; Rosanna v Moorabbin (draw); Rosnab v KARLIG; Geelong v CONDO; NTH GELONG v Henty; Rapier; ESEBON TRISTRIA v Keyborough; Greenborough v HAWTHORN PROVINCIAL.

DIVISION FIVE
Saturday: LANGWARRIN v Shepparton City; HAWKSBURN v Monash Utd; YARRAVILLE v Clayton; Ballarat v EAST BRUNSWICK; BULLEN v Lalar Utd; Carver v Melton (draw); Chelsea v CLIFTON Hill.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: RUGBY v MELBURN CITY; St. Dandenong v Moorabbin (draw); ST. YARRA v Hawthorn Utd; CENTRAL City v West Brunswick; HOLLAND PARK v Kyneton; Altona-

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE
EAST BRUNSWICK 3 (Epifano 9th, Mooney 41st, 67th) HAWKSBURN 0.

EAST BRUNSWICK: I. Rocciolatti, Gigliatti, S. Rocciolatti, Mooney, Santagelo, Di Marco.

HAWKSBURN: Mistic, Sejmes, Benedek, Kanton, Kazi, Biro (Laslo 62nd), Sabo, Dersak (Foras 62nd), Palo, Bleskany, Bacelli.

Hawksburn players were shocked when veteran Dino Epifano scored the first goal for East Brunswick. This spurred Brunswick on and only goalkeeper Tibor Mistic saved paralysed Hawksburn players from a heavier defeat, the first of the season.

Best players: Santagelo, Mooney and Serpentine for East Brunswick; Tibor Mistic, Jani Palo and Steve Bleskany for Hawksburn.

MELTON 1 (Blair 36th) BULLEN VENETO 4 (Graser 20th, Boarotto 25th, Salvatore 48th, Micheloudakis 86th) at Melton's ground.

BULLEN-VENETO: G. Poropat 7, E. Bohn 6, C. Meneguzzi 7, S. Zaccaria 6, P. Cezari 7, C. Grener 7 (Borin 70th 5th), M. Blesatto 6, D. Sutherland 6, M. Gernari 6, L. Boarotto 7, V. Salvatore 6 (inj. 70th 5th, Micheloudakis 6).

Bullen - Veneto returned to the winning list when it beat a mediocre Melton side 4-1 at the weekend.

Bullen-Veneto opened its account in the 20th minute when midfielder Sutherland crossed into the penalty box and Boarotto headed against the crossbar but Graser was there to head the ball into the net.

Bullen went 2-0 up through Boarotto who slotted home a cross from winger Salvatore in the 25th minute.

In the 36th minute Melton pegged one back through Blair to make it 2-1 at half-time. Bullen-Veneto quickly made it 3-1 in the second half when in the 48th Salvatore converted a rebound off the keepers chest from a Boarotto pleydrier.

In the 57th minute keeper "Lucky" Poropat kept Melton at bay when he brilliantly saved a Melton penalty by diving to his left to parry the kick.

In the 86th minute substitute J. Micheloudakis converted a Gennal cross to make it 4-1 for the visitors.

DIVISION FOUR
MURRUMBEEENA 0 DIAMOND VALLEY 1 (Boyd 25th)

MURRUMBEEENA: Mitandili (7), Kakoulidis (7), Triantafyllou (6), G. Tsakalidis (7), Katigolou (7), Haidipannagios (8), Kakoulidis (8), Hull (7), Apostolopoulos (8), G. Nikos (7) (Sub Triantafyllou 6), Tsakalidis (8).

VALLEY: Theodor (8), C. Baze (8), Campani (7), Lent (off 80 min), Panko (10), Love (8), B. Baze (8), Yersley (8), Boyd (5), Mitandis 8 (Sub McCulligan 7), Vanderstik (9), Curtis (9).

This was a "four pointer" for both sides and the game was played at a furious pace for 90 minutes.

The only goal of the game was scored by Nicky Boyd after 29 minutes for Diamond Valley. It was the best move of the match. Yersley switched a telling crossfield ball to Robby Love. His cross into the penalty area was flicked on by Curtis for Boyd to hammer home from six metres.

Love, Boyd and Campani were booked for Diamond Valley with Campani subsequently sent off after 60 minutes for deliberate hand-ball.

Peake was outstanding at the back, especially after Campani's dismissal. Thacker proved what an excellent goalkeeper he is, dealing with everything thrown at him.

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European championships

Results of European soccer championship matches with current standings:

GROUP ONE

In Brussels: BELGIUM beat EAST GERMANY 2-1 (halftime 2-1). Scorers: Belgium - Coulemans, Coeck. East Germany - Streich.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| Belgium | 4 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 8 |
| Scotland | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| East Germany | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

GROUP TWO

In Moscow: SOVIET UNION beat PORTUGAL 5-0. Scorers - Soviet Union: Cherenkov (16 and 63), Rodionov (40), Demyanenko (53), Larionov (86).

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Soviet Union | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 |
| Portugal | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Poland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Finland | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

GROUP THREE

In Copenhagen: DENMARK beat GREECE 1-0 (halftime 0-0). Scorer: Soeren Busk (77).

In London: ENGLAND beat HUNGARY 2-0 (halftime 1-0). Scorers - Francis, Withe.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| England | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 8 |
| Denmark | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Hungary | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 4 |
| Greece | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Luxembourg | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 0 |

GROUP FOUR

In Wrexham: WALES beat BULGARIA 1-0 (halftime 0-0). Scorer - Jeremy Charles.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wales | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| Norway | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Yugoslavia | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

GROUP SIX

In Belfast: NORTHERN IRELAND beat ALBANIA 1-0 (halftime 0-0). Scorer - Stewart.

In Vienna: AUSTRIA and WEST GERMANY drew 0-0.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| Austria | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 7 |
| Northern Ireland | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| West Germany | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Turkey | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Albania | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

GROUP SEVEN

In Zaragoza: SPAIN beat IRELAND 2-0 (halftime 0-0). Scorers - Carlos Santillana (51), Hipolito Rincón (89).

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Netherlands | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| Ireland | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Malta | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Iceland | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 |

From JIM COOK
our European
correspondent

Coeck, Briegel to AC Milan?

Anderlecht star Ludo Coeck, a member of Belgium's highly successful international team, may join Joe Jordan with AC Milan. The Italian club has also been watching Kaiserlautern defender Hans Peter Briegel for some time.

Europe's top 10

Top ten attendances in Europe in order are Barcelona, Real Madrid, AS Roma, Napoli, AC Milan, Manchester United, Fiorentina, Inter Milan, Juventus and Athletic Madrid. Barcelona's average gate is over 102,000!

Dutch stars to Canada

Canada's new domestic league gets under way this summer and they aim to make it bigger and better than that of their American neighbours. Millionaire businessman John Tiesmen, owner of Edmonton Eagles, has just signed four Dutch players including three internationals Piet Schrijvers, Lee Van Veen and Hugo Hovenkamp.

English star dies

Gerry Hitchens, 49, who collapsed and died playing in a business-cum-charity match in Wales was one of Europe's leading strikers in the 60s. Hitchens started with Cardiff City, made his mark with Aston Villa then spent nine years in Italian soccer mostly with Inter-Milan. He played seven times for England including appearances in the 1962 World Cup Finals.

Super Celts remain

Four playing members of Celtic's side which won the European Cup in 1967 are still with the club. Billy McNeill is manager, John Clark assistant manager, Steve Chalmers is the club's boss while Bobby Lennox is reserve team coach.

Jerkovic Zurich captain

Yugoslav international Jurica Jerkovic was recently chosen by his team-mates to take over the captaincy of Swiss side Zurich.

Swedish keeper finished?

It looks like the end of the road for veteran Swedish international keeper Ronnie Hallstrom who broke his arm playing for Kaiserslautern against Stuttgart.

Windfall for Aberdeen

Aberdeen in the finals of the European Cup-Winners Cup and the Scottish Cup have been inundated with offers to play in several glamour tournaments on the Continent this summer. With packed houses most of the seasons, money is rolling in to Pittodrie quicker than they can count it.

Fiji to try again

The Fiji Football Association has decided to enter the next World Cup competition - despite setting the record for having the greatest number of goals scored against them in last year's competition.

The FFA president, Manikam Pilai, rejected speculation that Fiji would withdraw from the next World Cup. FFA vice-president, Bala Naidu, said that if Fiji did not take part, it would have to pay a fine.

In the preliminary rounds of the last World Cup competition, Fiji was beaten 10-nil by Australia, and a few days later were thrashed 13-nil in Auckland by New Zealand.

Scotland names youth team

Dundee United defenders David Beaumont and Gary McGinnis were named in the Scotland Under-19 squad which will go to Mexico for the World Youth championship in June. And their midfield clubmate Jim Page is standing by and could be called in in the event of injury.

Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh has given a vote of confidence to home-based Scots, with 17 of them included in his pool of 18 - the only outsider being winger Ally Dick of Tottenham. Big surprise in the selection is St Mirren full-back Steve Clarke, who has not played in

the youth team before. But Roxburgh says, "He deserves his place thanks to an outstanding season in the Premier League."

The Scotland squad will have at least a week's altitude training at Colorado Springs in America before going on to Mexico and they will meet both the United States team and an air force team at the United States Air Force base where they will be staying. The squad is:-

Gunn (Aberdeen), Westwater (Hearts), Beaumont (Dundee United), Cooper (Aberdeen), Clarke (St Mirren), Phillips (Striding Albion), McInally (Celtic), McPherson (Rangers), McStay (Celtic), Bowman (Hearts), Rice (Hibernia), McGinnis (Dundee United), Dobbin (Celtic), Mackay (Hearts), Nevin (Clyde), Black (Aberdeen), McClair (Motherwell), Dick (Tottenham).

Roxburgh has also registered a number of reserves who will be called in, in the event of injury. They are:-

Rae (Hibernia), Sinclair (Notts Forest), Gauld (Hearts), Rendle (Leicester), Black (Rangers), Page (Dundee United), G. Doyle (Partick Thistle), Grant (Celtic), Kennedy (Rangers), Livingstone (Wolves), McIlwain (Kilmarnock), Robertson (Hearts).

One Dundee player and two from Dundee United are included in the Scotland under-18 squad which will attempt to keep the European championship which they won last season in Finland.

Included in the 17-strong squad, announced yesterday by manager Andy Roxburgh and which will head for England in May, are Dundee defender Tom McKinlay and Dundee United's Jim Page and John Clark.

The under-18 pool is:-

Sinclair (Notts Forest), Bruce (Rangers), Dickson (Clydebank), Rendle (Leicester), Gibson (Chelsea), Flannery (Clyde), McKinlay (Dundee), Page (Dundee United), G. Doyle (Partick Thistle), Porteous (Aberdeen), Grant (Celtic), Falconer (Aberdeen), Kennedy (Rangers), Robertson (Hearts), Clark (Dundee United), Dick (Tottenham), Livingstone (Wolves).

BRUTALITY!

KAT'S CORNER with PETER KATHOLOS

This week I want to talk about Sydney Olympic's recent game against Adelaide City - a game in which some important questions were raised about the standard of refereeing and the attitude of some players.

The aim of all players obviously should be to go out and entertain the spectators, for that's what they pay to see. But in this particular game, some of the Adelaide City players tried to kick our boys off the park. Some of the tackles were absolutely atrocious! It really was surprising that someone wasn't seriously injured. I'm not saying you shouldn't

go in hard for the ball. However, you certainly shouldn't try to ruin someone's soccer career by crippling him. With three games against England coming up, and with the Australian squad going to Mexico next month for the World Youth Championships, all players should be encouraged to play top soccer and to be in top form by the time of these big matches.

Players shouldn't be discouraged from going to get the ball for fear of some lunatic coming from behind to kick your legs from under you. This is where the referees come in.

Right from the word go, the referee must stamp his authority on the game and make sure that no nasty incident goes unpunished.

Perhaps the referee of the Adelaide City v. Olympic game, being Greek, and refereeing a Greek club, tried too hard to be impartial and as a

result did not give Olympic some of the decisions to which we were entitled.

The day of the Adelaide City Olympic game was Tommy Docherty's birthday and the present he wanted from his players was a victory. Well, the Doc got just that and we hope we can give him similar presents every week from now on.

The interstate game between Queensland and NSW is coming up in Brisbane on May 8, and it promises to be a very interesting affair.

I reckon the Queensland boys will want to prove that Frank Arok was wrong in not including any of them in the



Steve Maxwell looks on as Gary Phillips of Olympic takes a shot against Adelaide City. Picture by FRANK HOBBS

national squad for the matches against England in June and so they'll be out to show they are superior to NSW players.

Well, well, well, who would have thought at the start of the year that the South Melbourne Hellas all-star team could suffer successive defeats to St. George, Wollongong and Brisbane City - after all, everyone tipped Hellas as the most likely contender for the championship.

Good to see my old boss Doug Collins picking up points with Marconi after their poor run early on. I hope Marconi can keep it up. The Italians, like the Greeks, demand victory, so keep it up, Doug.

Carter played against Italy

By PAUL MOON

Bristol City's drop from Division One to Division Four within three successive seasons and its near bankruptcy, were among the most harrowing stories to come out of the stricken English soccer scene in recent years.

Adelaide City's Les Carter witnessed some of the unfortunate saga at first hand. Much of Bristol's financial problems stemmed from the fact that eight members of its playing staff were given lucrative long-term contracts at a time when the club appeared capable of establishing itself among England's elite.

As it plummeted down the Football League though, attendances dropped dramatically and the contracts of the players, who had become known as the "Famous Eight", threatened to send the "Robins" towards oblivion.

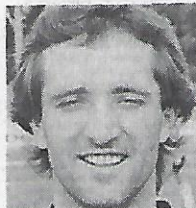
Eventually however the eight agreed to cancel their contracts, in return for a total of half a million dollars in compensation, and left the club.

In their place, City drafted seven reserves and bought one player from Crystal Palace - Les Carter.

Carter, already an English schoolboy international, won his first youth cap against Belgium in January, 1979 and scored in a 4-0 victory. Two further appearances, both opposing Italy, followed: they produced very different memories.

In the initial encounter in Rome he scored the game's only goal, but was sent off during the return. This misdemeanor cost him a place in the England team that subsequently finished third at the UEFA Youth Tournament.

Among fellow members of the English squad were John Lukic (Leeds United), Mark Dennis (Birmingham City), Brendan Ormsby (Aston Vil-



Les Carter

la), Paul Allen (West Ham United), Steve Mackenzie (West Bromwich Albion), Gary Mills (Nottingham Forest), Wayne Clarke (Wolverhampton Wanderers), Clive Allen (Queen's Park Rangers), John Fashanu (Notts County), Brian McDermott (Arsenal) and Terry Gibson (Tottenham Hotspur), all of whom have moved onto grander things within their country's domestic soccer in a remarkably short time.

Carter has been less fortunate.

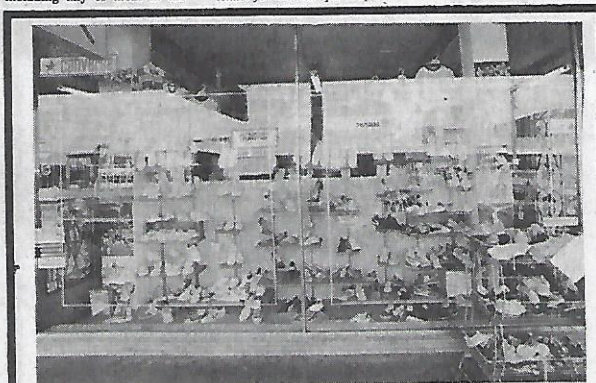
The protégé of John Cartwright, coach of Palace during two FA Youth Cup winning campaigns and the England juniors, made his senior debut for his South London club in a Division One match with Stoke City in January 1981.

The following month he came on as substitute against Everton, but was not given a further chance to prove himself at Selhurst Park.

Struck by dire economic problems, "The Eagles" were forced to shed most of their reserves, including Carter. At Bristol, he made 16 first team appearances and, despite the black cloud of impending liquidation which hung over the club, enhanced his reputation.

It was a surprise therefore when City announced that its young Hampshire-born forward was not among the 10 players they could afford to retain through the close season.

Very soon afterwards he was winging his way towards South Australia.



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VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO

Con il Morwell in difficoltà, la Juventus battuta la settimana scorsa dal Polonia e il Green Gully che non sembra ancora ingranare a dovere, il Croatia stava diventando il battistrada del campionato di Lega Statale e, con il formidabile quoziente reti di 187-1 in sei partite, manacciava di involarsi solitario verso il traguardo finale, distruggendo così ogni interesse nella competizione.

Ma a scongiurare il pericolo e' intervenuta una generosa Juventus che ha annullato quasi completamente il micidiale attacco croato e ha bucato la difesa della capolista il doppio di quanto lo era stato nelle sei partite precedenti.

La sconfitta subita la settimana scorsa dal Polonia si e' rivelata molto salutare per la difesa bianconera che domenica scorsa ha giocato con grande disciplina, senza mai permettersi la minima distrazione.

I capocannonieri della lega, Cumming e Latif, si sono persi nelle file della poderosa difesa juventina a hanno balbettato per tutta la partita come dei principianti. Margaritis, molto indovinatamente, non si e' preoccupato delle reputazioni di queste due macchine da goal e ha impostato la sua difesa sulla marcatura di zona, aspettando al varco.

Pat Bannon e' stato magnifico nella posizione di battitore libero e, solo verso la fine, ha accusato lo sforzo fisico e la pressione mentale che avrebbero staccato qualsiasi giocatore dieci anni più giovane di lui. Drinocky, al centro della difesa, ha dominato i duelli aerei ed e' intervenuto su tutte le palle nella sua zona con grande decisione, ma senza causare troppe punizioni a sfavore. Vince Bannon ha anche disputato un incontro eccezionale per impegno fisico, lucidità di riflessi e precisione negli interventi.

Hird, dopo la prova disastrosa della settimana scorsa, ha ampiamente meritato la sufficienza e il portiere Clayton ha retto molto bene, anche se come suo solito a volte ha fatto correre dei brividi in situazioni non tanto difficili.

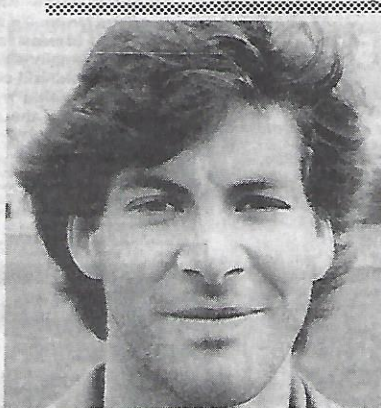
Il centocampo di Ged Bannon, Rogers e Swinscoe e' stato generosissimo, rompendo sul nascere molte delle offensive avversarie, torando indietro a difendere tutte le volte che ce ne e' stato bisogno, senza però trascurare suggerimenti in avanti, specialmente Rogers, dal cui piede sono partite le azioni più pericolose della Juventus, incluse quelle che hanno portato alla marcatura.

Ma la Juventus non si e' limitata a difendere, anche se la partita e' stata giocata principalmente nella sua tre quarti campo, con Incantulpo e Zinni sempre pericolosi in attacco e French molto impegnato in posizione alquanto più arretrata e magistrale suggeritore di Incantulpo in occasione della prima rete. Zinni ha lasciato il campo verso la fine, a risultato già acquisito, per correre ulteriori rischi con la sua caviglia malandata che gli aveva fatto mancare tutti gli allenamenti durante la settimana. Il ragazzo inoltre sembra aver imparato la lezione e comincia a limitare la sua esuberanza giovanile risparmiando un po' di più le energie e evitando rischi in panchina a causa di uno strappo muscolare riportato la settimana scorsa, assieme a Nelson che e' quindi subentrato a Zinni. Dopo la discesa di Cavallari e la partenza di Henry, Margaritis ha chiamato in panchina il giovane Mitrovic per darsi maggior scelta di sostituti. Ovvio che il parco giocatori alla Juventus si sta assottigliando pericolosamente e che qualche aggiunta deve essere fatta al più presto possibile per evitare di dispiacere quando arriveranno gli inevitabili infortuni multipli e le squallide.

Il Croatia, se non altro, ha peccato di ingenuità affollando l'area juventina e rimanendo troppo scoperto in retrovia. Aparte questa pur comprensibile svista, la squadra di Gardiner ha cercato di tutti i modi di passare la barriera difensiva bianconera, prima prendendo verso il centro con Latif e Cumming, quindi allargando il gioco sulle ali con Fawkiner e Biskic costantemente sulle linee laterali. Alla fine, preso dalla disperazione, Gardiner ha cercato di far ricorso all'esperienza di Brogan che ha mandato in campo al posto del giovane Goleviev e quindi della mastodontica mole da "ruckman" di Deankovic che ha preso il posto dello spento e "ridotto" Latif.

Sin dall'inizio e' apparso evidente che il Croatia avrebbe applicato una tremenda, ma sterile, pressione e che la Juventus avrebbe portato a termine le sporadiche azioni pericolose. Il primo tempo finiva a reti inviolate, ma la Juventus si era resa pericolosa in almeno due occasioni con Incantulpo e il Croatia non riusciva a far altro che collezionare calci d'angolo. Sicura della sua forza difensiva e conscia della guardia bassa del Croatia, la Juventus scendeva in campo nella ripresa decisa a fare su l'intero bottino di punti. Bisognava as-

UNA GRANDE JUVENTUS SALVA IL CAMPIONATO DEL VICTORIA



Bruno Cozzella — two-goal hero of Fawkner-Azzurri.

pettare solo due minuti per il magnifico goal di Incantulpo che, con una delle sue portentose staffette in diagonale infilava Blazby imparabilmente. Ma il merito delle rete deve andare anch'essa a French, che riceveva la palla da Rogers, metteva in scena una lunga discesa centrale per poi allungare in corsa sulla sinistra all'accecante Incantulpo. La seconda rete bianconera era anche di ottima fattura: nuovamente Rogers metteva in moto French che smistava a Fabio, questi alzava per Zinni che di testa insaccava imparabilmente. Sulla grande tribuna affollata da orde di croati calava il silenzio di piombo e quindi, quasi incredulo, si innalzava il coro di "Juve! Juve!" a salutare quella che ormai appariva la più entusiasmante vittoria bianconera dell'anno. E il Croatia che continuava a venire all'arrembaggio e collezionare calci d'angolo (per la cronaca un totale di 16!) segnava la rete della bandiera appunto da un calcio d'angolo battuto a traletoria testa da Biskic e deviato in rete di testa da Antolovic. La rete dava al Croatia una certa speranza e i rossì si buttavano alla ricerca del pareggio come forsennati, ma la difesa bianconera reggeva, anche se con estrema difficoltà, e portava a casa due meritissimi e importanti punti che rimettono la Juventus in testa alla classifica a pari punti con Croatia, Green Gully e Polonia.

Questa grande vittoria guadagnata così eroicamente dovrebbe avere l'altro salutare effetto di far affluire migliaia di italiani all'Olympic Park domenica prossima per l'altra grande sfida con il Green Gully... e ben farebbero a portare con loro i \$80 d'iscrizione come soci per cominciare a dare al comitato qualche dimostrazione più tangibile di sostegno.

LA FORTUNA AIUTA GLI AUDACI DEL FAWKNER

Sabato scorso il Fawkner ha incamerato altri due punti preziosi contro il fanalino di coda del South Melbourne Hellas, senza fare eccessivamente troppo per meritarseli. Ma era ora che la fortuna sorrisse un poco agli Azzurri di Crivokic, anche se sotto forma di una svista arbitrale che negava all'Hellas un sacrosanto voto sul finire della partita.

A dire il vero, i ragazzi di Armstrong, pur non facendo risultati, hanno sempre fatto fare brutta figura a tutti gli avversari grazie alla loro esube-

lante. Come non e' bene avere eccessive speranze, non e' bene nemmeno farsi prendere da eccessivo scoraggiamento. Il tempo e i giocatori per riprendersi ci sono, quello che ci dovrebbe essere anche e quel senso di assoluta fiducia e autorità da confermare all'allenatore in situazioni del genere in modo che egli possa fare i ritocchi che riterrà opportuni senza doversi guardare le spalle da sgambetti che giocatori insofferenti sanno spesso organizzare così bene.

LEGA NAZIONALE

Il Brisbane City ha dovuto abbandonare il primato in classifica, solo a causa dell'insolito sistema di nuova applicazione che assegna tre punti alla squadra vincente e uno alla squadra che pareggia. Il Preston ha appunto colto tre punti contro la Juventus di Adelaide, molto sudati a dire il vero e grazie al loro italiano Claudio Lucchesi che ha costruito due reti per i suoi compagni della prima linea macedone, mentre il Brisbane City ha colto un importante pareggio contro il più volte campione Sydney City in una partita giocata in notturna a Lismore.

Ma gli Azzurri di Brisbane hanno ancora una partita da recuperare contro il cugino dell'Apia, quindi teoricamente sempre la possibilità di avere diritto al primato.

Il Marconi ha colto una brillante vittoria contro il forte Heidelberg. I giovani granata, ben diretti dagli esperti Henderson, Jankovics e Degney, dopo la disastrosa della settimana scorsa contro il fanalino di coda del Footscray, hanno dato prova di poter affrontare anche i più agguerriti avversari con una certa disinvoltura e autorità. Carbone, McCulloch e Sermani hanno dominato il centrocampo e Henderson ha spazzato tutte le velleità offensive degli avversari, ben spalleggiato da Rizzuto e Degney. In avanti Jankovics ha scupato alcune favorevoli occasioni che avrebbero reso il risultato finale molto più vistoso.

MISTERO DI FEDE

Sabato scorso, dopo la partita vinta dal Fawkner sul South Melbourne Hellas, l'allenatore di questi ultimi Jimmy Armstrong ha detto sconsolato: "Come e' possibile battere una squadra che si porta i propri segnaie?"

"Portarsi" non e' il termine esatto, perché i segnaie sono stati regolarmente selezionati ed inviati dalla federazione. Petrolito, e del cugino del club Schipano. Ad onor del vero, i due ufficiali di gara, si sono comportati con grande imparzialità, ma e' appunto nello spirito della stessa imparzialità che segnaliamo il grave fatto di cui naturalmente nemmeno il Fawkner ha alcuna responsabilità e dal quale non ha tratto alcun beneficio, anzi alquanto imbarazzo soltanto. Considerando anche che il padre di Ian Tuffield, Colin, e' presidente dell'associazione arbitrale, e' facile immaginare per un possibile sacrosanto reclamo dell'Hellas per una questione puramente di principio.

A scanso di equivoci vogliamo precisare che l'assegnazione delle partite agli ufficiali di gara viene fatta dalla federazione e non dall'associazione arbitrale di Colin Tuffield, che quindi e' da essere considerato competentemente estraneo alla strana faccenda.

IL MORWELL IN SERIE NEVATIVA

Terza sconfitta consecutiva del Morwell, questa volta per mano dei campioni del Croatia con il punteggio secco di 0-3. Il Morwell ha ovviamente bisogno di più tempo per raggiungere una migliore intesa fra tanti nuovi giocatori messi assieme da Boggi quest'anno. Oltre tutto, il calendario non lo ha certo favorito mettendolo di fronte a Polonia, Croatia e Green Gully in tre settimane successive e così presto nella stagione. Perdere contro queste tre squadre non e' poi un disonore, ma la delusione dei tifosi e' più che comprensibile considerando l'ottimo quarto posto dell'anno scorso e le grandi speranze suscitate all'inizio di quest'anno con l'arrivo di Boggi e di alcuni dei migliori giocatori del camp-

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